



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 12, 2019

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COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 12, 2019

Region: Great Lakes

Chair: Suzanne M. Falkenberry, MD

Staff: Lisa Pinkston

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Kathryn A. Colby, MD PhD, Councilor, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Paul A. Edwards, MD, Councilor, American College of Surgeons, Advisory Council for Ophthalmic Surgery
- Justis P. Ehlers, MD, Councilor, American Society of Retina Specialists
- Suzanne M. Falkenberry, MD, Councilor, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Evan P. Lagouros, MD, Councilor, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Jennifer I. Lim, MD, Councilor, Retina Society
- W. Walker Motley, MD, Councilor, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Anne M. Nachazel, MD, Alternate Councilor, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Timothy P. Page, MD, Councilor, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Andrew W. Tharp, MD, Councilor, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology

Guests and Staff

- Chris Albanis, MD, Associate Secretary for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Nandita Anand, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons/University of Chicago
- Christopher Areephanthu, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Saaquib Bakhsh, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Beaumont Health Systems
- Karl Becker, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Michael Beyer, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Maura Campbell, Executive Director, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Jessica Cao, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Yara Catoira-Boyle, MD, President, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Talisa de Carlo, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Anna Luisa Di Lorenzo, MD, Past President/former Councilor, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Elaine Downie, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Emily Eton, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons/University of Michigan
- Reggie Fields, Executive Director, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Nina Goyal, MD, Vice President, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Laura Grant, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons/Henry Ford Hospital
- Nick Grissom, Advocacy Ambassador, Ohio Ophthalmological Society

- Sohail Hasan, MD PhD, President, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons; Member, OPHTHPAC Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Philip Hessburg, MD, former Councilor, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Aaron Holtebeck, MD, Member, AAO Secretariat for State Affairs
- Arjun Hura, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Olivia Killeen, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons/University of Michigan
- Judy E. Kim, MD, Trustee-at-Large, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Ang Li, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Victor Liou, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, American Academy of Ophthalmology, EyeWiki winner
- William F. Mieler, MD, Trustee-at-Large, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Jon Minkowski, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Ashley Neiweem, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Daniel Oh, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, American Academy of Ophthalmology, EyeWiki winner
- Paul Phelps, MD, Treasurer, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Eric Purdy, MD, Chair, AAO Focal Points Committee; Member, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Edward Randerson, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- John D. Roarty, MD, MBA, Member, OPHTHPAC Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Mary Kate Russell, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Amar Shah, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Lincoln Shaw, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- John Stechschulte, MD, former Councilor/Board member, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Alison Teo, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Matthew Trese, DO, Advocacy Ambassador, Beaumont Health Systems
- Scott Westhouse, DO, Academy Leadership Development Program Participant, XXI, Class of 2019 (representing Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons)
- Kim Williams, Executive Director, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
- George Williams, MD, President, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Ruth Williams, MD, Editor, EyeNet, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Maxwell Wingelaar, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – Aaron Holtebeck, MD
- The states have faced a significant number of optometric scope bills this year. All states were on our ‘threat’ list with some more threatened than others.
 - We started the 2019 legislative session with 24 states facing significant threats. Thus far we have defeated surgical bills in Maryland and Wyoming, and suffered a big loss in Arkansas.
 - State societies are and continue to be our boots on the ground in the Surgery by Surgeons campaign. We encourage all ophthalmologists to establish a personal relationship with your state legislators: invite to your offices, and surgery centers.

Focus on getting to know legislators in the “off season,” not just during the legislative session.

- Go back home and personally ask 5 MDs to give to the Surgical Scope Fund. Explain why it is important to advocate for patients and practice, and why it's important to contribute to all of the key funds – Surgical Scope Fund, State Eye PAC, and OPHTHPAC. Remind them that optometrists give from their first day of optometry school.
- Brainstorming session: Share ways that your society engages members in grassroots advocacy.
 - Active advocacy day at the state legislature
 - Doctor of the week program: send an ophthalmologist every week, not just when ophthalmology is dealing with active legislation
 - Insist on board members committing to attend and support fundraisers
 - Maintain a consistent lobbying voice year over year (true for past 20 years)

B. OPHTHPAC Update – Sohail Hasan, MD, PhD & John Roarty, MD, MBA

- OPHTHPAC has set a \$2M goal for 2019 and had raised \$300K as of April 12. As of that date, there was a 64% give rate among all Councilors, and a 67% give rate among Great Lakes region Councilors.
- During Congressional Advocacy Day 2019 visits with legislators/legislative staff, ophthalmologists discussed the Academy's position on a range of topics, including step therapy, administrative burdens and challenges to patient care caused by prior authorization, Medicare Part B drug costs, rising drug costs and drug shortages, MIPs, E/M documentation requirements, and more.

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

American College of Surgeons, Advisory Council for Ophthalmic Surgery (ACS)

- Advocacy and education are among the key focus areas of ACS.
- The ophthalmic surgery group of ACS will focus its annual symposium on telemedicine. These symposia offer an opportunity for ophthalmologists to share what we do with other surgical specialties.
- The ophthalmic surgery group is working to get more ophthalmologists interested in joining ACS. We believe greater involvement by ophthalmologists would lead to more robust educational programming, also promote greater participation by ACS in advocacy on issues affecting ophthalmology.

American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS)

- ASRS held its successful 2018 annual meeting in Vancouver and will next meet in July 2019 in Chicago.
- The society continues to focus on a variety of advocacy issues. The society has been addressing Step Therapy in partnership with the Retina Society, Macula Society and AAO.

Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (ISEPS)

- Lessons Learned: Don't blow up your enemy – they might be more valuable to you alive. ISEPS hired a former legislator, who had sponsored a bill opposed by the society, to serve as the society's lobbyist.
- Thus far in 2019, no optometric scope legislation has been introduced.
- ISEPS has made efforts to reenergize its board by bringing in new members and more clearly defining board member responsibilities.

- ISEPS has also focused on engaging young ophthalmologists, an effort which has included expanding board representation so that now each year of residency is represented.

Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology (IAO)

- The Indiana legislature 'outlawed' online refractions several years ago. Opternative, a company providing online refractions, recently filed a lawsuit against the Indiana state medical licensing board on this matter.
- A novel idea IAO has implemented to help engage members in grassroots advocacy was to include legislator names on IAO members' meeting badges

Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (MiSEPS)

- Optometric scope has been quiet/stable, but the society remains on guard since there is an optometry school in Michigan.
- This has been a year of transition in administration. In June 2018 Maura Campbell was hired as the society's executive director and has been doing great work on many fronts. Notably, she has focused on updating the society's brand.
- MiSEPS supported two legislative bills in 2019, including an early prescription eye drops refill bill sponsored by state Rep. Julie Calley.
- MiSEPS is working to build relationships with key legislators, by sponsoring 2 legislative visits and by organizing a legislator tour of Kellogg Eye Center
- The society presented its MiEYEMD visionary award Philip Hessburg, MD for his lifetime of service, extraordinary achievements and contributions to ophthalmology and to Rep. Julie Calley for her leadership in the Michigan legislature at the society's awards dinner. This event was also a fundraiser for MiEYEMD education and public service efforts.
- MiSEPS is concerned about how to best encourage members to contribute to the Surgical Scope Fund and OPHTHPAC without disadvantaging society efforts to increase member contributions to the society's eye PAC.

Ohio Ophthalmological Society (OOS)

- Ohio's tort reform laws have been revised. Changes affect the "I'm Sorry" statute, and place limits on the number of physicians/practices that can be named in each suit.
- A telemedicine bill was reintroduced that would require payment for telemedicine if the patient had been seen in person.
- A law that required providing an estimate on cost of surgery was thrown out on a technical issue.
- OOS is focusing efforts on increasing membership and increasing PAC contributions.

Retina Society

- The Retina Society will hold its next annual meeting in September 2019 in London.
- The society videotapes presentations at its meetings and makes those available to members on its web site.
- The society has revamped its policies and forms concerning financial disclosures/conflicts of interest.
- Retina Society is concentrating on increasing membership and getting new members involved in the society.
- The society is also working to revamp its web site.

Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology (WAO)

- While optometric advocacy efforts have been quiet for some time in Wisconsin, WAO recognizes that optometric scope expansion is not an 'if' but a 'when'.
- The WAO executive director meets annually with the OD society: He learned that optometry may introduce an online refraction bill.

- The society will look at ways to get members to engage/build relationships with their legislators.

IV. Review of Council Advisory Recommendations (CARS) Submitted

- Region chair Dr. Falkenberry invited attendees to discuss CARs submitted. There was no discussion and no action taken.

V. New/Other Business

- Great Lakes Councilors and guests continued discussion concerning the AAO2AAO presentation made by Academy President George Williams, MD during the Council's opening session. Discussion by Great Lakes was substantial and wide ranging, including the following comments:
 - Skeptical about opening the door to optometry: The Academy could become a trojan horse for optometry.
 - Interested in whether we can find a rational way forward. This is worthy of discussion.
 - In 2015, MiSEPS Councilors supported a CAR (#15-05) that called for the creation of a new entity associated with the Academy that would provide membership and education to optometrists employed by ophthalmology practices. That CAR, which I supported sought to accomplish some of the ideas put forward by Dr. Williams during the Council Opening Session. I also support the Academy Board's idea to consider the issues described by Dr. Williams.
 - Optometrists should not perform surgery, but there is a real shortage of ophthalmologists. Just as developing personal relationships with legislators is important, so too is developing personal relationships with optometrists. Personal relationships ophthalmologists develop with optometrists in their practices allow better team integration.
 - The ideas outlined by the Academy president provide an opportunity for the Academy to better address patient care by addressing the manpower challenges.
 - As we consider these matters, we need to ensure that AI/telemedicine remain purview of ophthalmology.
 - Is AAO in position to lobby CMS/federal government on issue of ophthalmology-lead eye care team? Can compensation/reimbursement be tied to MD-lead teams?
 - If a new organization or organizational structure is established, it should also look at how to recruit ODs into ophthalmology practices.
 - I'm in favor of the parallel track: continuing to fight optometric scope expansion while pursuing the physician-lead team model.
 - When ophthalmologists and optometrists practice together, they do well. When they practice separately is where we end up in conflict.
 - Would the Academy be opposed to holding joint ophthalmology/optometry symposia at the state level?
 - Hire smart, capable ODs in your practices. Educate them in your practice and encourage them to get appropriate education.



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 12, 2019

Region: Heartland

Chair: Elizabeth H. Gauger, MD

Staff: Jessica Kuo

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Michelle K. Atchison, MD, Councilor, North Dakota
- Paul D. Weishaar, MD, Councilor, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Jessica A. Claussen, MD, South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology
- Thomas A. Graul, MD, Councilor, Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Amanda C. Maltry, MD, Councilor, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology
- Gregg T. Lueder, MD, Councilor, American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Ophthalmology
- Linda M. Tsai, MD, Councilor, Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Elizabeth H. Gauger, MD, Councilor, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology

Guests and Staff

- Robert Fantus, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- David B. Glasser, MD, Secretary for Federal Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Jeffrienne S. Young, MD, Member, OPHTHPAC Committee
- Maria L. Stunkel, Advocacy Ambassador, American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus
- Barton Lynn Blackorby, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, American Society of Retina Specialists
- D. Scott Penman, Executive Director, Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Danny Mammo, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, American Academy of Ophthalmology, EyeWiki winner
- Yong W. Kam, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- David D. Ingvaldstad, MD, Member, Secretariat for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Keith D. Carter, MD, FACS, President, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Timothy W. Olsen, MD, Secretary for Quality of Care, American Academy of Ophthalmology

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – David D. Ingvaldstad, MD
- Scope of practice battles in 20 states. Optometrists are pushing for scope bills modeled after the ones in Louisiana, Kentucky and Oklahoma, with an exclusionary list of procedures. Surgeries not listed on the list would be within the OD scope.



- Surgical Scope Fund is critical to the success of the Surgery by Surgeons campaign. Participants are encouraged to contribute, and to talk to their societies about making an organizational contribution from the state/subspecialty society.
- Anti-technology legislation introduced in Minnesota, Rhode Island and Washington to prohibit telemedicine.
- Nomination deadline for the Leadership Development Program Class of 2020 is May 2.

B. OPHTHPAC Update – Jeffrienne S. Young, MD

- OPHTHPAC Reception tonight. Mid-Year Forum attendees are encouraged to contribute to OPHTHPAC.
- The Academy relies on robust OPHTHPAC funding to generate traction for our legislative agenda. Efforts include continuation of the regulatory relief campaign, timely access to Medicare Part B drugs, preservation of surgical payments, addressing drug prices and shortages, access to compounded treatments and fighting proposed changes to the Contact Lens Rule.
- Big challenges ahead with prior authorization requirements.
- The Academy needs congressional advocates in all states. Reach out to the Academy's Governmental Affairs Division for more information.

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- LB 528 was introduced at the 2019 Legislative Session by the Nebraska Optometric Association to expand scope of practice for ODs. ODs want self determination and no oversight.
- NAEPS collaborated with the Nebraska Medical Association and other specialty societies to foster a partnership to oppose LB 528 at the March 15 hearing. Testimonies in support of NAEPS from non-ophthalmology physicians were compelling to legislators.
- Encourage all Mid-Year Forum participants to work with their state societies to plan out the year. Best time to meet legislators is during recess.

South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology

- Closely watching surrounding states with scope battles.
- Last year an independent nurse practitioner bill was passed since all surrounding states passed similar bills.
- Focused on member recruitment and engagement.

North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- No scope issues this year.
- HB 1003 - University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences – passed the House with the UNDMHS budget intact, with all current residencies funded.
- NDSEPS will continue grassroots efforts to strengthen relationships with legislators and to actively advocate on issues important to ophthalmologists and our patients.



Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology

- Legislation was introduced in February 2019 to expand optometry scope of practice. The bill did not make it out of committee.
- Continued public relations program to increase the public's awareness of ophthalmology (vs. optometry).

Kansas Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- KSEPS joins Kansas Medical Society in opposition to a bill that would permit the "corporate practice of medicine" in Kansas. Physicians worry that by allowing corporations to assume control of medical practices, patient care and quality of care potentially could take a backseat to corporate profits.

Missouri Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- No scope bills anticipated for the current Legislative Session.
- MoSEPS continues to maintain strong ties with the Missouri State Medical Association. Due to this strong relationship, as well as relationships with other allies, Missouri has not had an optometric scope of practice bill in recent years.
- Focus for 2019 is to meet with all legislators, with the main purpose of educating legislators on the difference between eye care professionals and fostering relationships.

Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology

- A scope bill has been introduced again and passed through the House. IAO is actively working to stop the bill from advancing through the Senate Committee.
- As part of its member benefit, IAO helps members on coding issues.

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

CAR 19-04 Vision and Driving Fitness: A Matter of Public Safety

- May be helpful to have some guidance on vision impairment and driving fitness.
- CAR Supported by the region.

CAR 19-05 Transition of Care for Pediatric Patients

- There are no care transition guidelines specific to ophthalmology currently available.
- Guidelines for transition of care of pediatric patients with chronic ocular disorders is extremely important for good patient care.
- It was suggested to support this CAR and rank high priority.

CAR 19-08 Analysis of Private Equity Acquisitions and the Commoditization of Ophthalmology

- Kansas Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons shared a case study of a private equity acquisition in Kansas. In most cases, if the practice is not profitable, the private equity firm will flip and sell. In the case study, the practice bought out by private equity firm, physicians and administrators left the practice, resulting in negative impacts on patient care and academic centers.
- Kansas encouraged other states to support this CAR.

CAR 19-10 State Membership for AAO Leaders and Advocacy Ambassadors

- Encouraged everyone to get involved. Most state societies offer free memberships to residents.



V. New/Other Business

- Resources for YOs on practice management, specially contract review.
 - Residency curriculum doesn't offer contract review advice.
 - Residents and first-year-in-practice members receive complimentary membership to AAOE, the Academy's practice management arm.
 - AAOE (aao.org/aaoe) resources include a practice form library as well as sample contracts. Another resource available to YOs is YO Info on aao.org as well as YO sessions at the annual meeting (e.g., Welcome to the Real World).

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 12, 2019

Region: Metro East

Chair: Dorothy Moore, M.D., Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology

Staff: Brendan Marr

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Dorothy Moore, MD: Councilor, Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology; OPHTHPAC Committee Member.
- David Silbert, MD: Councilor, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Bob Bergran, MD: Councilor, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Scott Goldstein, MD: Alternate Councilor, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Amjad Hammad, MD: President and Councilor and President, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Martin Lederman, MD: Councilor, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Gareth Lema, MD, PhD: Councilor, New York State Ophthalmology Society
- Grace Sun, MD: Councilor, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Cecily Lesko, MD, FACS: Councilor, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Robert Scharfman, MD: Councilor, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Vishal Jhanji, MD: Alternate Councilor, Eye and Contact Lens Association
- Edward Raab, M.D.: Councilor, American College of Surgeons Advisory Council for Ophthalmic Surgery
- Don Morris, D.O.: Councilor, American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology

Guests and Staff

- Dan Briceland, MD: Senior Secretary of Advocacy, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Lynn Gordon, MD: Council Chair
- Denise Alber, MD: Regional Representative, Secretariat for State Affairs
- Chris Albanis, MD: Associate Secretary for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Ken Cheng, MD: Chairman, Surgical Scope Fund; Legislative Chair, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Michelle Rhee, MD: OPHTHPAC Committee
- Don Cinotti, MD: New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Jeff Henderer, MD: Pennsylvania
- Cathy Cohen: Vice President for Governmental Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Sara Avila, MD: Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Joel Packet, MD: Eye and Contact Lens Association, Mt. Sinai Hospital
- Sara Anastas, MD: Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Cissy Yang, MD: Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Peter Wawrzusin, MD: Advocacy Ambassador, New Jersey
- Geoff Rodriguez: Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Gaonela Pufuin, MD: Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Alyse Richards, MD: Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Sruti Akella, MD: Advocacy Ambassador, New York



- Megan Rowlands, MD: Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Angela Warren: Executive Director, Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology
- Matt Halpin: Executive Director, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Robin Pellegrino: Executive Director, New York State Ophthalmology Society

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update –*Chris Albanis, MD*

- The 2018 Surgery by Surgeons campaign has netted safe surgery victories in 2 states so far in 2019, Wyoming and Maryland.
- Ophthalmology faced a bitter loss in Arkansas after a hard fought battle for patient safety.
- Alabama, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Texas, Vermont, and Utah are all facing current optometric surgical scope expansion initiatives.
- Large states like California, Florida, and Illinois remain on the “watch list” for optometric surgery initiatives.
- It is critical that all ophthalmologists and state societies contribute to the Surgical Scope Fund (SSF).
- The State Affairs Secretariat suggests Academy members find five colleagues who have never given to SSF and ask them each to donate \$500.
- Th Secretariat for State Affairs held a national conference call with all state society presidents and executive director. They plan to have similar calls on a quarterly basis going forward.

B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Michelle Rhee, MD and Dorothy Moore, MD*

- The goal of OPHTHPAC is to get pro-medicine, and specifically pro-ophthalmology candidates elected to Congress.
- Current federal advocacy initiatives include:
 - Protecting fair Medicare reimbursements
 - Preventing ill-conceived programs from controlling Part B drug costs
 - Maintaining access to compound treatments
 - Fighting new federal requirements in the Contact Lens Rule
- All ophthalmologists are urged to raise money for both OPHTHPAC and Surgical Scope Fund.
- OPHTHPAC has 2 components:
 - PAC component is money that goes directly to candidate for Congress
 - Administrative Fund: money that goes to funding the PACs overhead costs
- 64% of Council has given to OPHTHPAC to date
- 83% of Metro East Councilors have given
- Goal is to have 100% participation among eligible members.



III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology

- Things are quiet legislatively other than a mandatory comprehensive exam bill for children.
- The society is working closely with the Academy and AAPOS.

Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology

- An optometric surgery bill has been introduced for a second consecutive legislative session.
- State PAC contributions have significantly increased.
- Holding fundraisers for key leaders within the state legislature is vital for building relationships with powerful lawmakers.
- Successful political fundraisers have been held across the state for various lawmakers.
 - The continuing plea for money from members is causing some fatigue.
- A “home district advocacy week” has been helpful connecting ophthalmologists with their state legislators in their local communities instead of at the state capitol.
- Meeting with legislators in their districts is an effective strategy during legislative recess periods.
- Statewide “annual meeting” for the profession have not been successful.
- Regional meetings seem to be more effective.

New York State Ophthalmological Society

- An oral prescribing bill for optometrists has been introduced.
- It is currently illegal for techs to administer eye drops.
- Ophthalmology practices have been hiring registered nurses and optometrists to administer eye drops.
- Membership is at 40%.
- Membership of the society is the largest in the nation in terms of number of members.
- The society faced a 10% drop in membership over the last 2 years.
- Challenge for the profession is private equity buying out medical practices.
- The society faces challenges motivating membership.
- A scope of practice bill might be the one thing that will galvanize its membership.

Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology

- Things are quiet legislatively on scope issues.
- The legislature is approaching the medical community to support an e-prescribing bill.
- Legislation to legalize medical marijuana is being considered.

New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology

- The society focuses its fundraising on “choke points” - legislators powerful enough to block any legislation they deem necessary:
 - Senate President
 - House Speaker
 - House/Senate Majority Leader
 - Key Committee Chairs.
- The society’s lobbying firm represents many interests that raise large sums for state legislators. Fundraisers hosted by the lobbying firm help the society get recognition among the targeted legislators.



IV. Review of CARs Submitted

- Each CAR was reviewed without much discussion for each.

V. New/Other Business

- AAO2AAO initiative was hotly debated.
- Some councilors felt it would be giving optometry a competitive edge in scope of practice expansion advocacy initiative.
- Other members felt they should “wait and see” what specific proposals the Academy puts forth before rendering judgement.

IV. Close



**COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 12, 2019**

Region: Mid-Atlantic

Chair: Edgar Gamponia, Councilor, West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Co-Chair:

Staff: Scott Haber

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

Julie Lee, Councilor, Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Alan Wagner, MD, Councilor, Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Mary Louise Collins, MD, Councilor, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

Emily Chew, Councilor, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

Woody Van Meter, MD, Alternate Councilor, The Cornea Society

Sharon Solomon, MD, Councilor, The Macula Society

Zelia Correa, MD, Councilor, Pan American Association of Ophthalmology

Leslie Jones, MD, Councilor, Washington DC Metropolitan Ophthalmological Society

Lee Snyder, MD, Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Renee Bovel, MD, Councilor, Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Guests and Staff

Stephanie Marioneux, MD, OPHTHPAC

John Peters, MD, State Governmental Affairs

Michael Repka, MD, AAO Committee of Secretaries

Sonny Goel, MD, AAO Board of Trustees

Kim Ebert, West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Liz Rolch, Executive Director of Kentucky Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Lauren Groia, West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Lingo Lai, West Virginia Association of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Matthew Tadrus

William Richardson, President Elect, Kentucky Eye Physicians and Surgeons

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *John Peters, MD*

Surgical scope battles happening in a number of states:

- Very active but have had success in many states, including Wyoming and Maryland
- Arkansas was a 2019 state where OD made gains
- Active battles in many states, including Alabama, Iowa, Texas, and more.

Surgical scope fund has been helpful in many of the state fights but continue to need investment in the fund to address bills in many states.

In addition to surgical bills, many states also considering anti-technology legislation.

B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Stephanie Marioneaux*



- Successful year for OPHTHPAC and commitment from members helped success on a variety of issues.
- The political cycle runs on money and continued investment in OPHTHPAC is critical. Only 50% of councilors in Mid-Atlantic were OPHTHPAC contributors.
- Advocacy Day 2019 was a major success.
- For those with worries about contributing due to personal politics, important to remember that you can invest specifically to the administrative fund.

III. Individual State Discussion

Kentucky:

- The state has on and off years of short and long legislative sessions, this year is a short session,
- Fought the AOA's anti-telemedicine bill and had AAO support and support from 1800 Contacts.
- They are introducing drivers license vision testing, as they are one of seven states that does not require it.

Virginia:

- Major issue was the DMV initiative due to tragedy in the state where vision impaired driver killed young girl.
- Legislation to improve driver safety and to protect physicians who report impaired drivers to the DMV.
- Another big issue is COPM reform, which could be evaluated next year (2020)
- Virginia also expanded Medicaid.
- State Society now offers education CME to their members for no charge through a nonprofit 501(c)(3) grant.

AAPOS:

- Dr. Collins discussed efforts to engage on issue of optometry pushing comprehensive eye exams for children in many states.
- Dr. Collins also discussed efforts with AAO to meet with the US Department of Education on convergence insufficiency under the IDEA Act.

ARVO:

- Recently held the successful ARVO congressional fly-in, which was aided by Jim Jorkasky of NAEVR.
- ARVO is also working on a collaboration on eye banks.

Cornea Society:

- Dr. Van Meter spoke on behalf of the Cornea Society.
- He highlighted that their major priority right now is protecting the pass-through expense.

Macula Society:

Dr. Solomon spoke on behalf of the Macula Society, highlighting their efforts on the compounding/repackaging guidances from FDA and monitoring various federal issues like step therapy and prior authorization.

DC:

- Discussed expansion of scope for ODs is about prescribing opioids.



- Worked with Maryland closely on their scope battle due to proximity and many members living/working in Maryland.

Maryland

- Dr. Snyder thanked Dr. Solomon for her great speech before the Maryland House.
- Extensive discussion of the MD Scope battle, which culminated in compromise legislation with ODs.
- Discussed how optometry has extensive friends in both the Maryland House and Senate.
- 7-year moratorium was discussed and appreciation was given to Dr. Sonny Goel for his efforts to bring positive results.
- Dr. Goel discussed his efforts on the scope bill and the group discussed ophthalmologists testifying and aiding optometry in their efforts.
- The group also discussed intimidation of MD ophthalmology residents by optometry and gave multiple examples.
- The group discussed the importance of building long-term legislative relationship before scope bills are introduced. Also discussed was how we advocate for our patients and their safety.

PAN

Getting ready for their bi-annual meeting in Cancun.

West Virginia:

- AOA Optometry PAC dispersed over \$40,000. We were concerned that Optometry might push a scope bill this past legislative session.
- A scope bill did not materialize this session. It was discussed how this was an important time to build legislative relationships and educate lawmakers.

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

CAR-19-04- Vision and Driving Fitness: A Matter of Public Safety

- Discussion focused on the importance of standard policies around at-risk drivers.
- The group agreed that this was a worthwhile CAR, as many Mid-Atlantic councilors had discussed driving safety initiatives in the states.

CAR-19-06- Cybersecurity CME as an AAO Member Benefit

- The CAR was discussed by Dr. Bovellet and Dr. Snyder from the Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons.
- Both mentioned that right now there is very little training available but that these issues continue to impact physician practices.
- The group agreed that this was a very timely CAR and that this was important.

CAR-19-08- Analysis of Private Equity Acquisitions and the Commoditization of Ophthalmology

- The CAR was discussed briefly by Dr. Lee and the group had a short discussion of impact of private equity on ophthalmology community.

V. New/Other Business



- Dr. Gamponia asked the group if they had any new business to discuss.
- The group discussed AAO efforts to engage with optometric organizations and the pros and cons of various approaches.



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 12, 2019

Region: Mountain West

Chair: Rebecca Sands Braverman, MD

Staff: Sue Vicchilli

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Brian T. Rose, MD, Councilor, Arizona Ophthalmological Society
- Jim Earl, MD, Councilor, Idaho Society of Ophthalmology
- Craig L Wilkerson MD, Councilor, Montana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Kenneth Downes, MD, Councilor, New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology
- James Howard, MD, Councilor, Utah Ophthalmology Society
- Jennifer Nottage, MD, Councilor, Wyoming Ophthalmological Society
- Kathleen M Duerksen MD, Councilor, American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Prem S Subramanian MD PhD, Councilor, North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society
- Rebecca Sands Braverman, MD, Councilor Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Guests and Staff

- Gregory Skuta, MD, AAO Board
- Robert Wiggins, MD, AAO Board
- Angela Watkins, MD, President, Montana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Kristin Reidy, MD, New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology
- Nanette Gilbertson, Executive Director, Montana Academy of Ophthalmology
- Cecinio C Ronquillo, MD, PHD, Utah LDP
- Kyla Teramoso, Arizona
- Jordana Smith, MD, Arizona LDP
- Robert Spurny, MD, Arizona Ophthalmological Society
- Leo Seibold, MD, Past President, Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Kurt Heitman, MD*

- Scope battles have expanded to 12-17 states per year. Surgical procedures more intense.
- Arkansas was lost primarily due to loss of grass roots efforts. Remainder of states' legislative activities look favorable.
- Need for donations to surgical scope fund.
- Safesurgerycoalition.com was discussed.

B. OPHTHPAC Update – *David Johnson, MD*

- At meeting time, 64% of Council has donated to OPHTHPAC.
- 89% of races that received donations won.



- Ongoing relationships with legislators is vital.

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

- Arizona
 - Excellent lobbyist in place
 - Hosted MD of the day at the capital
 - Two MDs elected to the House
 - One-third of legislators are new
- Idaho
 - Preparing for next year. Optometry, via bylaws, attempts to expand scope to include treatment for “lumps and bumps” and lasers for SLT, LPI, capsulotomy. No laser for retina, vitreous, or orbital.
 - Optometry school or weekend course to become certified. Will require five proctored cases. Those who receive license after proctoring can become proctors themselves.
- New Mexico
 - Holding fundraisers
 - No bill during current legislative session
 - Future legislative session is business only
 - Are there statistics available that confirm exactly what treatments are occurring?
- Colorado
 - No current active scope issues
 - Holding social mixers, legislative open house for legislators and aids Residents attend. OCT and other equipment brought in to provide screenings. Videos of cataract surgery, retinal surgery, etc. running on continuous loop.
- Wyoming
 - Successful defeat! Legislation will return again next year.
 - Increasing grass root efforts. One to one fundraising planning
 - Key to success? Labor chair would not allow bill to be heard in her committee.
 - Legislators became tired of it. Recommended lesion and laser registry program. Optometry doesn't want it.
 - Optometry newsletter bolded the names of the MDs who testified.
 - Legislation does redefine relationships.
- Utah
 - Establishment of database matching all legislators to members
 - Optometric board meeting voted chalazion excision to expand scope of practice. Ophthalmologists send definition of surgery, which includes laser surgery, to the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing leadership. Optometric board has no authority to expand privileges.
 - Collaborative effort on vision screening and legislation passed. Tier 1: Volunteers, Tier 2: School nurses or eye professionals.
 - Optometry expresses fear of tech advances, such as SureSight
 - Hosted young ophthalmologists for dinner at planetarium to introduce and connect them to the society.
- Montana
 - Part time legislative session every other year.



- Discussing grass roots connection with legislators. How to motivate membership to be engaged.
- Executive director makes it easy by doing all the logistics.

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

- Regarding technician shortages, developing an apprenticeship would be helpful.

V. New/Other Business

- None



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 12, 2019

Region: New England
Chair: Linda Schumacher-Feero
Staff: Sarah Cartagena

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

Linda A. Schumacher-Feero MD, Councilor, Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Edward Lim MD, Councilor, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
Paul Greenberg MD, Councilor, Association of Veterans Affairs Ophthalmologists
John Mandeville MD PhD, Councilor, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Michael Goldstein MD, Councilor, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Nancy Efferson-Bonachea MD, Councilor, New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
David Rivera MD, Councilor, Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Jeffery Young MD, Councilor, Vermont Ophthalmological Society

Guests and Staff

Shirley Goggin, Executive Director, Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Jennifer Chen, Executive Director, Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
David Emmel MD, Co-Chair, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
William Ehlers, Secretary of Public Affairs, JCAHPO
Christopher Teng MD, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
Christopher Rapuano MD, Board of Trustees, American Academy of Ophthalmology
Jeffrey Sandlo MD, Past Councilor, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update - Edward Lim, MD
- 14 to 20 states have been in battle and have lost Arkansas. A national conference call was held in regard to these battles. They are seeking feedback as to how often these calls should be held. Are they helpful? Should there be a listserv to communicate through instead?
 - There are states using the word "procedure" to mean "surgery". Caution members to read the wording of these legislations carefully.
 - States that do not have battles currently should stay active and engage while it is "quiet". It was encouraged to utilize quiet times to build relationships with legislators as well as engage state membership. Contact Dr. Lim to get materials to get started.
 - Dr. Parke has allotted \$900k for battles in the New England region.



B. OPHTHPAC Update – Linda A. Schumacher-Feero MD

- 57% of council members have donated to OPHTHPAC, attempted to reach 82% by the end of the event.
- Explained that the Academy needs the financial means to establish relationships in Congress.
- Explanation was given as to the amounts that would be reported as well as the amounts that do not need to be reported.
- Federal advocacy coordinators needed in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- There is a rumor that optometry has close ties with the AOA. There is going to be a meeting with courses on how to do surgery and do VEGF injections with a wet-lab.
- Optometry submitted 8 bills, they recently attached their bill to the state budget.
- There was success in preventing optometry from defining evasive surgery.

Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Only one bill has surfaced that was an eye bill that was killed in committee. It is expected to arise again this year. Currently no scope battles.

Vermont Ophthalmological Society

- Currently in scope battle. Called for a study that will return and is due in January. The concern is how to keep everyone involved. The study being conducted is to look at training an optometrist obtains and the curriculum being followed. The findings will be compared against the training ophthalmologists receive especially in regards to lasers and procedures. It is typical that bills that go into “study” do not pass. Vermont societies have decided to be a part of the study as well as optometry. An example was given of an optician refraction vs. an optometrist refraction and how the theory can be used against them. The society is working to make sure the study is accurate.

New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Have not faced a scope battle. The eye society heavily donates to the OPHTHPAC through donations it receives from members in its state to its PAC.
- OCT is being denied as all glaucoma and macular codes have been removed from the coverage policy (Harvard Pilgrim). The policy was reversed to the original policy that included these diagnoses; however, the new policy with the diagnosis removed was reinstated. Those with claims are now under the circumstance of “untimely filing”. There is a different fee schedule for optometrist.

Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians



- There are currently no scope issues. Currently dealing with an optometric bill that involves premium IOLs to fall under uncovered services. The society sees this as a good opportunity to work with optometry.

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

- Discussed all 10 CARs.
- CAR 19-03 was presented by Bill Ehlers and CAR 19-09 was presented by its author, Ed Lim.

V. New/Other Business

- No other business was discussed.



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 12, 2019

Region: Pacific Coast
Chair: David S Zumbro
Staff: Michael Levitt

I. Welcome

David Zumbro, MD welcomed the Councilors and guests to the Pacific Coast Regional Meeting.

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Michael Brush, MD, Councilor, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Rhoads Stevens, MD, Councilor, Hawaii Ophthalmological Society
- David Zumbro, MD, Councilor, Alaska Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Michael Westafer, MD, Councilor, Nevada Academy of Ophthalmology
- Amin Ashrafzadeh, MD, Councilor, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- V. Nicholas Batra, MD, Councilor, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, Surgical Scope Fund Committee
- Troy Elander, MD, Councilor, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- JoAnne Giaconi, MD, Councilor, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons & American Ophthalmological Society
- Roma Patel, MD, Alternate Councilor, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons & American Ophthalmological Society
- Nisha Nagarkatti-Gude, MD, Councilor, Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology
- Alison H. Skalet, MD PhD, American Association of Ophthalmic Oncologists and Pathologists (AAOOP)

Guests and Staff

- Lynn K. Gordon, MD, PhD, Council Chair, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Dan Briceland, MD, Sr. Secretary for Advocacy, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Jeff Maltzman, MD, Chair, OPHTHPAC Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Anne Louise Coleman MD PhD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Jordan Conger, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Michael P Ellis, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Meron Haile, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Rahul Khurana, MD, Editor & Chief, The One Network, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Kaitlyn L Pearson, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Margaret McDougal Runner, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Victoria L Tseng, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons



- Andrew L Ward, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- James T Walsh, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Craig Kliger, MD, EVP, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Nathan W Law, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Steve Friedlander, MD, FACS, Nevada Academy of Ophthalmology, Secretariat for State Affairs
- Peter Karth, MD, Young Ophthalmologist - Advocacy Subcommittee, Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology
- Aaron Weingeist, MD, Legislative Chair, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- David Epley, MD, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Steve Friedlander, MD*

- Optometric scope expansion bills are being fought in multiple states in 2019.
- Many of these bills copy the Kentucky, Louisiana and Oklahoma laws that include a short list of exclusions but permit all other surgeries.
- Victories for safe surgery have been scored in Wyoming and in Maryland in 2019.
- Arkansas loss on surgery issue.
- Whether California will be opposing an optometric surgery bill in 2019 is still unclear.
- Councilors are urged to give to the surgical scope fund and their state political action committee.
- Strong grassroots over time are key to victory.
- Additional details may be found in the agenda book.

B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Jeff Maltzman, MD*

- Building relationships remains key to success in Congressional advocacy.
- OPHTHPAC is a vital part of the Academy's advocacy effort on the Hill.
- The Academy has had recent advocacy success in obtaining greater flexibility on MIPS and blocking burdensome changes to rules on contact lenses.
- The Congressional Advocacy program matches ophthalmologists with each member of Congress.
- The Mid-term elections have resulted in 100 new members of Congress with which ophthalmologists must build relationships.
- Consider becoming a Congressional Advocate.
- OPHTHPAC aims at transparency in the factors it considers and to whom it distributes OPHTHPAC donations.
- Advocates can link to a secure mobile page for updates on Congressional Advocacy.
- Additional details on Congressional advocacy can be found in the agenda book.



III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

- Alaska Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
 - Ophthalmologists are beginning to get re-engaged after a scope of practice defeat in 2017.
 - Not having relationships with key legislators contributed to the optometric scope of practice loss in Alaska two years ago.
 - The society has considered introducing legislation to include an ophthalmologist on the state optometric board.
- Washington Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
 - The society provides training to 500 technicians and physicians on aspects of practice management.
 - The society coordinates education meetings with the University of Washington.
 - The society provides public education through its Facebook page.
 - The society provides for tax deductible donations to its Foundation.
 - The society has introduced a bill to ban scleral tattooing bill.
 - There were no scope issues this year.
 - A bill that contains provisions to study telemedicine in eye care is pending.
- Nevada Academy of Ophthalmology
 - A bill introduced by the Nevada optometric board contained provisions on surgery, injections, glaucoma treatment and controlled substances.
 - The society negotiated with the board to agree upon language.
 - Optometrists gave back neovascular glaucoma treatment, hydrocodone, and included a strong definition of surgery.
 - The bill is currently pending.
- California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
 - Last year a scope expansion bill that contained a surgery provision was derailed.
 - The California Optometric Association's champion, Senator Ed Hernandez, OD, was termed out and lost an election for Lt Governor.
 - The optometrists have a vehicle to introduce new surgery legislation this year.
 - Patients can be helpful as advocates for safe surgery.
 - The society is exploring avenues to make it easier for ophthalmologists to get involved in the society.
- Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology
 - The society had a successful meeting that included 100 medical doctors and 148 technicians.
 - There were no scope issues this year.
 - The society was able to remove ophthalmologists from a restrictive refractive technology telemedicine bill.
- Hawaii Ophthalmological Society
 - No scope bill has been introduced in 2019
 - An early eyedrop refill bill died, probably due to opposition from Blue Cross/Blue Shield.
 - A Women in Ophthalmology - HI group had an inaugural meeting in January.



- o An ophthalmologist put together a musical band of ophthalmologists and their children at a holiday event, an activity that strengthened ties between physicians and their families.

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

- **19-01 Recommendation on Maximum Brightness of New Headlights**
Observations regarding headlights brightness were discussed.
- **19-02 Transparency in IOL Power Variability**
No comments were made.
- **19-03 AOP Apprenticeship Training Workforce Shortage Solution**
Councilors discussed the issue of shortages of allied ophthalmic personnel. Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology noted its successful community college program. Other states noted less success in sustaining such programs and less interest in the field. There was general support for the CAR 19-03. However, it was noted that an apprenticeship program may make it harder to retain qualified personnel.
- **19-04 Vision and Driving Fitness: A Matter of Public Safety**
Councilors generally agreed that the CAR represented a good start for guiding ophthalmologists and informing the public about vision and driving fitness. It was noted that several states impose criminal penalties for not reporting patients with poor driver vision to state authorities.
- **19-05 Transition of Care for Pediatric Patients**
Councilors were supportive of CAR 19-05. It was noted that other specialty societies have guidelines for the transition of care for pediatric patients.
- **19-06 Cybersecurity CME as an AAO Member Benefit**
Councilors voiced support for CAR 19-06.
- **19-07 Simplifying Recruitment Using “Potential Member Report” Data**
Councilors agreed that the Academy has already addressed the issue of “potential member report” data.
- **19-08 Analysis of Private Equity Acquisitions and the Commoditization of Ophthalmology**
Councilors did not voice support for CAR 19-08. It was voiced that the approach that the Academy should take on private equity acquisitions is to provide guidance to members on what to consider in making decisions about these arrangements.
- **19-09 Speaker Disclosure in AAO Educational Presentations**
Councilors opposed what they considered a public-shaming approach to the lack of political involvement in organized ophthalmology.
- **19-10 State Membership for AAO Leaders and Advocacy Ambassadors**
Councilors noted that the Academy is making concerted efforts to ensure that Advocacy Ambassadors and Academy leaders become members of the state ophthalmological societies.

V. New/Other Business

- Council members engaged in a discussion on how to proceed going forward with organized optometry.



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 12, 2019

Region: Southeast
Chair: Todd D. Gwin, MD
Staff: Molly Peltzman

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Won Kim, MD - Alabama
- Joe Nezgoda, MD - Florida
- David Cano, MD - Florida
- Darby Miller, MD - Florida
- Sarah Stoneburner, MD - North Carolina
- **Emilio A Arce-Lopez**, MD - Puerto Rico
- Todd Gwin, MD - South Carolina
- Mark Ewald, MD - Tennessee
- S. Anna Kao, MD - Georgia
- Additional attendees not included in this list.

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update - Won Kim, MD
- Provided a report based on the written report.
- B. OPHTHPAC Update - Anna Kao, MD
- Provided a report based on the written report.

III. Key Society Highlights

- Alabama - Alabama has an ongoing scope battle with SB114. The Alabama State Society sent faculty members and residents to the Senate hearing to testify. In response to this battle, the Alabama State Society sent a survey to patients and they overwhelmingly chose ophthalmologists over optometrists to perform medical procedures.
- American Society of Retina Specialists - ASRS is focusing their efforts on combating step therapy on the federal level.
- American Uveitis Society - There were no updates from this society.
- Florida Society of Ophthalmology - There were no updates from this group, however their board members are having fundraisers to raise money and awareness of ongoing issues. Additionally, they are encouraging involvement and membership with residents and faculty from local university programs.
- Georgia - Georgia is working on getting more young ophthalmologists involved in their society by having breakout sessions at the Academy's annual meeting. They have an initiative to select champions of medicine and were able to pass a step therapy bill that was supported by one of their champions.
- National Medical Association - This organization's annual meeting is coming up where they will have a research competition available to residents.



- North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons – Recently won a scope battle with assistance from the AAO and Surgical Scope Fund. Their membership is the highest ever at 70% which is credited to working with academic institutions individually.
- Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgery Society – OOSS shared their best practices such as creating an advocacy area on their website with easily accessible draft letters for advocates. Additionally, they invite legislators to ASCs to shadow surgeons and grow their relationships.
- Puerto Rico – SB1088 scope battle has had hearings in the Senate health committee recently. Representatives believe the bill will go through the Senate and has been working with the House to stop its continuation. The Puerto Rico state society has raised approximately \$50,000 to buy equipment for their local residency program. Additionally, between 80-85% of Medicare patients in Puerto Rico have joined a Medicare Advantage program that is using third party administrators (TPA) to provide refractions and glasses. The Puerto Rico State Society has decided to form its own TPA, called PROS, to compete with commercial TPAs.
- South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology – This organization is planning its Fall retreat, which is legislative in nature.
- Tennessee – There are no current legislative battles but that could change in the future. A captioned bill was introduced, likely due to the new optometry school opening in 2020.
- Women in Ophthalmology – This organization is hosting a golf charity fundraiser with which the proceeds will go towards the Academy’s Surgical Scope Fund.

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

- CAR19-1 Headlight Intensity: Support AAO response
- CAR19-2 IOL Product Variability: Support AAO response
- CAR19-3 Allied Personal Workforce: Support AAO response
- CAR19-4 Vision and Driving Licensing: Reached no consensus
- CAR19-5 Complex Pediatric Patients to Adult Care: Support AAO response
- CAR19-6 Cybersecurity CME: Support AAO response
- CAR19-7 Potential State Society Member Report: Support AAO response
- CAR19-8 Effect of Private Equity Acquisitions On How We Practice Ophthalmology: No action
- CAR19-9 Speaker Disclosure and AAO Talks: Support AAO response
- CAR19-10 AAO Leadership, Membership and State Societies: No action

V. New/Other Business

- There was discussion in new business regarding the Academy’s interest in working more closely with the American Academy of Optometry. The SE section debated how best to handle creating partnerships with optometry and would like more time to determine the best methods.
- The SE section also recommends that the Academy create a CAR for how to handle ophthalmologists who are training optometrists in surgical techniques, with one potential option being expulsion from the AAO and ABO.



**COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019**

Region: Tornado Belt
Chair: Richard Galen Kemp, MD
Staff: Matt Daigle

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

Richard C. Allen, MD, PhD, Councilor, International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

George S. Ellis, Jr., MD, FACS, Councilor, Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Julie Lee, MD, Councilor, Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Jonathan E. Drummond, MD, Councilor, Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology

Chevy C. Lee, MD, Councilor, Texas Ophthalmological Society

Richard Galen Kemp, MD, Texas Ophthalmological Society

Robert D. Gross, MD, Texas Ophthalmological Society

Guests and Staff

- Matt Daigle, AAO staff
- William Burke, MD, Texas Ophthalmological Society
- Sanjiv Kumar, MD, Texas Ophthalmological Society
- Ben Harvey, Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
- Elaine Zhou, Texas Ophthalmological Society
- Valeri Lobodoux, Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
- Richard Jones, Texas Ophthalmological Society
- Amalia Miranda, MD, Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
- Rachael Reed, Texas Ophthalmological Society
- John Haley, Texas Ophthalmological Society
- J. Reeves Samaha, Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Ansuya Deosaran, Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Robert Melendez, MD, AAO Board of Trustees
- Aaron Miller, MD, AAO Board of Trustees
- Sidney Gicheru, MD, Secretariat for State Affairs
- David W. Parke II, MD, AAO CEO

II. ACADEMY UPDATES/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update - *Sidney Gicheru, MD*

- Arkansas pattern is similar to what optometry is pushing nationwide
- Victories in WY., Md.
- 12 active states, with others on the watch list
- Urges contributions to OPHTHPAC *and* Surgical Scope Fund
- Leadership Development Program - encourages every state to send candidates
- Seeking feedback on ways to increase engagement and participation at the member level for state societies
 - Ideas include personal calls, small-group gatherings,

B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Julie Lee, MD*

- Seeking 100 percent of the Council contributing to the PAC
- Percentage of givers throughout the Academy is below 20 percent
- Tornado Belt is below-average in overall contributions, compared with rest of the nation

III. REVIEW OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Arkansas Ophthalmological Society

- Not in attendance

International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

- Some scope issues related to those who use technicians as surgical techs

Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Hired an executive director – Cindy Bishop
- Scope loss has resulted in the society degrading, but it's now getting built back up
- Looking at regional events to drive membership
- LEAP participants gave high praise to the program

Mississippi Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Not in attendance

Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology

- President of medical association is ophthalmologist, has provided a seat at the table for the state Academy on many issues, is improving their standing within the house of medicine
- Shared lessons learned from being in state with expansive optometric surgery allowances

Texas Ophthalmological Society

- In a scope battle right now, approximately 6 weeks left
- Surgical privileges for laser, plus optometry board authority for future procedures
- Hired a lobbying firm to support legislative efforts
- Chair of committee of jurisdiction decided to hear only ophthalmology's bill
- Texas had a patient who fell victim to a negative outcome via optometric surgery

IV. CLOSE

- Recommendation: ask that all optometric boards be reportable
- CAR discussion
 - Private equity and speaker disclosure
 - Is the Academy's response adequate?
 - Hard to establish a recommendation that each ophthalmologist become a good businessperson; rather, needs to be education
 - Transition of care for pediatric ophthalmologists
 - Hard to find adult ophthalmologist who will take on case for children with special needs
 - How old is too old – still see some patients in their 30's and 40's. Need resources to make the handoff before they become older adults
 - Support for guidelines, which the profession currently lacks
 - Discussion of whether it's actually just an ethics issue
 - Headlights
 - Agreement on Academy's analysis – we're not in the business of evaluating technical specifications

- o IOL transparency
 - Should the Academy engage with Alcon before reaching out to the FDA?
- o Workforce shortages/allied health
 - No discussion
- o Vision and driving fitness
 - Glaucoma patients are particularly at risk, but physicians can advise without obligation from patient to acquiesce
- o Cybersecurity CME
 - No discussion
- o Potential member report
 - State society leaders believe this would be a positive development
- o Speaker disclosure of non-donation to OPHTHPAC/Surgical Scope Fund
 - Should be encouraged to state support voluntarily verbally from the podium
- o Non-state society members among Academy leadership
 - Strong support for this CAR, but it's a question of whether it is feasible