

# Destination AAO 2017

GET READY FOR NEW ORLEANS • PART 1 OF 6

## WELCOME

### Five Days in New Orleans

Engage with colleagues from around the world, learn new skills, and hear about the latest and most innovative treatments at AAO 2017, the Academy's 121st meeting.

**When to be there.** AAO 2017 is held Nov. 11-14 and is preceded by Subspecialty Day on Nov. 10-11.

**How to prepare.** Over the coming months, *EyeNet's* Destination AAO 2017 will guide you through deadlines, preview the scientific program, and highlight must-attend events.

## INTERVIEW WITH DR. AARON

### An Insider's Perspective

Maria M. Aaron, MD, Secretary for the Annual Meeting, discusses this year's program and what she's looking forward to in New Orleans.

**Q.** *What are some of the most interesting or useful course topics being planned?*

**A.** The annual meeting is unique in that it offers something for everyone. Whether you are a comprehensive ophthalmologist or a subspecialist, there are plenty of opportunities to learn something new within your subspecialty or even something in an entirely



*Dr. Aaron.*

different area. Cataract surgeons will not want to miss learning more about operating room efficiency, complicated cataract and complex IOL calculations, and drop-free cataract surgery. The Academy's sessions on these topics will not only cover the latest educational information but are also extremely practical, providing take-home pearls and techniques that you can easily implement in your practice.

The "Diagnose This" live session—a spirited competition among ophthalmologists who like to outsmart their opponents—is certain to be entertaining and educational. The audience will be broken up into 3 or 4 groups with multiple rounds of questions getting progressively harder. Each unknown case will have a series of questions, and the audience will win points for each correct answer using the audience response systems (ARS) device. The group with the most points wins a prize.

**Q.** *If you could take just 1 instruction course or symposium at this meeting, what would it be and why?*

**A.** The spotlight on physician well-being is going to be hugely popular. Physician burnout rates in all specialties continue to rise, reaching more than 50%, and recent studies demonstrate that satisfaction with work-life balance continues to decline. This session will cover the signs of burnout and how to avoid it, how to increase resiliency, how to find more joy in practice, and how to help your colleagues do the same. This is such a critical topic, not just in the world of medicine, and it's finally getting the attention it deserves. I hope you'll join me there to learn how to recharge and refresh ourselves and our colleagues so we can prevent burnout.

**Q.** *What does the Academy do to ensure that attendees have the best possible meeting experience?*

**A.** We rely on feedback from our attendees to constantly improve the experience. (So please complete your evaluations and give us your honest opinions!) And Academy staff and members of the Annual Meeting Secretariat are always working to innovate and explore new possibilities. For example, we are continually improving the Mobile Meeting Guide based on your feedback. This year, we are considering adding a feature that makes program suggestions based on courses that attendees add to their calendars. We've also discussed a buddy system for new participants, ways to improve networking through a collaboration/innovation area, and much more.

**Q.** *What innovations might we be seeing in the next several years?*



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**A.** With more online learning available, we realize that the environment we create at the meeting must be interactive and cognitively stimulating. Learners no longer attend meetings to sit passively in rows as information from an expert speaker flows aimlessly into their heads. We now know that adults learn best with experiential learning opportunities. While we have a lot of interaction in our small group learning formats (e.g., Breakfasts With the Experts and the Academy Café), we haven't changed the large didactic courses/sessions yet. However, this year we are planning to dedicate at least 1 meeting room—equipped with round tables and ARS—to a more active learning atmosphere. Our goal is to fill this room with various interactive sessions that promote small-group, case-based, problem-solving techniques. Piloting these techniques in 1 room gives us the chance to train faculty in new teaching modalities. We are looking at additional methods to increase awareness and train faculty in the use of new techniques.

**Q.** *What is the #1 extracurricular activity you are looking forward to in New Orleans?*

**A.** The food! Chef Emeril Lagasse has just opened Meril, the 13th restaurant in the Lagasse organization and his first new one in 20 years. A few of my personal favorites: GW Fins, Emeril's Delmonico, Arnaud's, Acme Oyster House, NOLA, and Palace Café. For a quick sandwich near the convention center, check out Cochon Butcher—the Gambino is my favorite, but that's because I'm 100% Italian and can't pass up a sandwich full of my favorite Italian meats.

**Q.** *What is the most unique comment you've ever received about the annual meeting?*

**A.** I had an interesting conversation with my dear friend, Dr. Bonnie Henderson, about shoes. We've seen lots of incredible shoes at the annual meeting but have concluded that if you choose to wear your high heels, you must bring a change of shoes. From Sunday to Tuesday, there are more than 40 rooms running simultaneously with programming from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and



**HANDS-ON LEARNING.** Attendees learn about maneuvers and surgical techniques for scleral fixation or iris fixation of posterior chamber IOLs using sutures.

the New Orleans convention center is over 3 million square feet! This is great for getting exercise, but wearing comfortable shoes is a must. I think this year will be flats only for me.

## BEAT THE CLOCK

### June 28: Registration, Hotels, and Program Information

Starting June 28, Academy and AAOE members can register and make hotel reservations for AAO 2017 and Subspecialty Day. Online registration will remain open through the meeting. On July 12, nonmembers can register and reserve hotel rooms. A hotel map will be posted at [aao.org/hotels](http://aao.org/hotels) on June 23.

The AAO 2017 Program Search will be launched as part of online meeting registration on June 28. Look up information by day, topic, type of event/course, special interest, or presenter. You do not need to log in to view program information, but login is required to build your personal calendar and purchase the Academy Plus course pass or tickets.

For more registration information, including fees, visit [aao.org/registration](http://aao.org/registration).

## PROGRAM

### Try One of the 62 Skills Transfer Labs

Skills Transfer labs help you master cutting-edge diagnostic and surgical techniques. It is strongly recommended (but not required) that you attend

the accompanying didactic lecture scheduled prior to the Skills Transfer lab. Access to all didactic lectures is included with the Academy Plus course pass (you may purchase the pass when you register for AAO 2017); however, a separate ticket must be purchased to attend a lab. This year's new labs are:

- Learning the DMEK Procedure—An Introductory Course
- Sutureless Scleral Buckling: A Hands-On Practicum
- A Typical Day in the Operating Room of a Pediatric Ophthalmologist: Procedures and Adjustable Sutures for Strabismus Surgery
- No Capsule, No Problem—Intra-scleral Haptic Fixation of Intraocular Lenses

### Subspecialty Day 2017

Subspecialty Day features prominent ophthalmologists presenting the latest in diagnosis, treatment, and procedures. When you register for a 1-day meeting, you can float among the Subspecialty Day meetings taking place that day. Registrants for the 2-day retina meeting may attend any Subspecialty Day presentation on Friday or Saturday. The programs are:

- Refractive Surgery 2017: Linking to the Expanded World of Refractive Surgery—Friday, Nov. 10 (1 day).
- Retina 2017: Retinal Mardi Gras—Friday, Nov. 10, and Saturday, Nov. 11 (2 days).
- Cornea 2017: Keeping the Old, or Breaking the Mold?—Saturday, Nov. 11 (1 day).

- Glaucoma 2017: Inspirations and Innovations: New Insights in Glaucoma Care—Saturday, Nov. 11 (1 day).
- Neuro-Ophthalmology 2017: When Should I Worry? Dangerous Signs, Symptoms, and Findings in Neuro-Ophthalmology—Saturday, Nov. 11 (1 day).
- Oculofacial Plastic Surgery 2017: Clinical Challenges and Surgical Technique—Strategies for Success in Oculofacial Plastic Surgery—Saturday, Nov. 11 (1 day).
- Pediatric Ophthalmology 2017: Sightseeing in New Orleans for the Pediatric Ophthalmologist—Saturday, Nov. 11 (1 day).

## EVENTS

### Orbital Gala Honors

#### H. Dunbar Hoskins Jr., MD

Join the Academy Foundation in celebrating H. Dunbar Hoskins Jr., MD, on Sunday, Nov. 12, at Mardi Gras World. Dr. Hoskins is a distinguished glaucoma specialist and was the Academy's executive vice president for 16 years (1993-2009). He is a champion of ophthalmic education, physician and patient advocacy, and technological innovation. Under his leadership, the Academy launched the Ophthalmic News and Education (ONE) Network, the world's leading online resource for ophthalmic education.

And in 2009, the H. Dunbar Hoskins Jr., MD, Center for Quality Eye Care was established to honor his lifelong commitment to evidence-based care and health policy research.



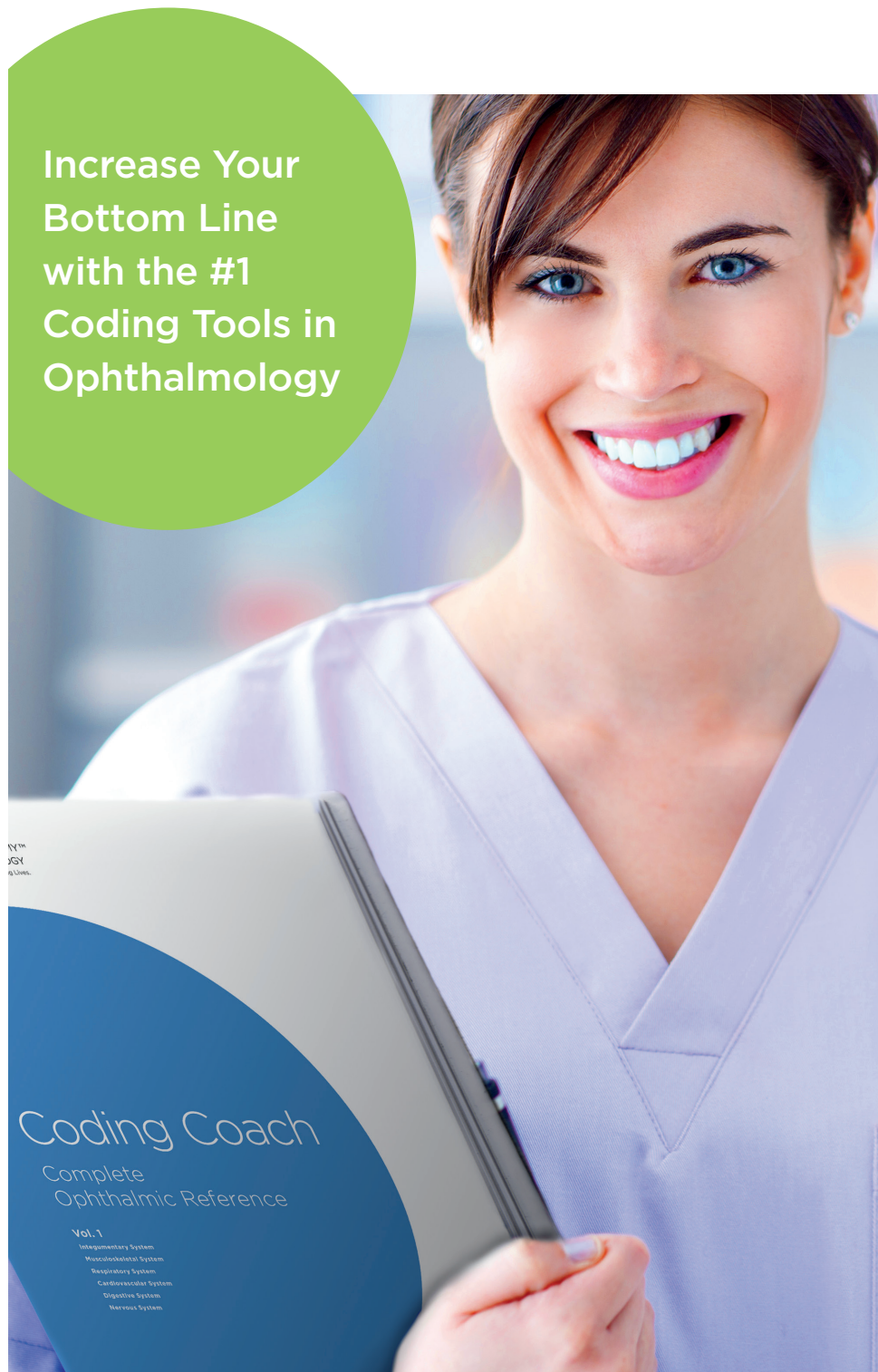
*Dr. Hoskins.*

Don't miss this opportunity to dine, dance, enjoy live entertainment, get great silent auction deals, and see Mardi Gras floats up close. Purchase tickets and make a tribute gift in Dr. Hoskins' honor at [aao.org/foundation](http://aao.org/foundation). Those making a gift of \$250 or more may place a personal message in his tribute book. Proceeds from gala tickets and tribute gifts support educational, quality of care, and service programs.



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