

Destination AAO 2019

GET READY FOR SAN FRANCISCO • PART 1 OF 6

WELCOME

Get Inspired in San Francisco

It's time to start preparing for the world's largest, most comprehensive ophthalmic meeting. At AAO 2019, you'll have the opportunity to learn from leaders in the field, discuss hot topics in medicine, connect with colleagues, and explore the city.

When to be there. AAO 2019 runs Oct. 12-15 and is preceded by Subspecialty Day programs, held Oct. 11-12. You can also attend AAOE's program Oct. 11-15.

How to prepare. Over the next five months, this "Destination AAO 2019" section will guide you through deadlines, preview the scientific program, and highlight key events.

SPOTLIGHT ON SKILLS TRANSFER LABS

Dr. Cohen's Insider Perspective

Jack A. Cohen, MD, FACS, is currently serving his fifth year as Chair of the Skills Transfer Program, his eighth on this committee. Below, Dr. Cohen previews the Skills Transfer learning opportunities at AAO 2019.

Q: What are the Skills Transfer labs?

A: The Skills Transfer labs are



Jack A. Cohen, MD, FACS.

provided by the Academy at the annual meeting for physicians to learn or re-learn skills that they want to perform. Ophthalmology and other medical specialties are changing so quickly: New studies are constantly coming out, as are new techniques, drugs, and equipment.

Q: What is the structure of the labs?

A: During the labs, we provide pig eyes, human eyes—all sorts of models, as well as equipment that allows participants to simulate performing eye surgery on a real person. We try to make the ratio of attendees to instructors as close to one-to-one as possible.

Thirty-five of the 57 courses have related didactics, meaning that a separate lecture takes place a couple of hours before the lab, a day before, etc. This allows participants to gain some knowledge before they sit down and start doing a technique that they haven't otherwise studied.

Q: How are the labs planned?

A: It starts with the Skills Transfer Program Committee, which comprises members from various subspecialties.

The group meets twice a year, once shortly after the annual meeting and once in January. At both committee meetings, we review the labs and determine which were successful and unsuccessful, and which could be improved. At the January meeting in particular, we look at what's hot in ophthalmology and consider new courses. For instance, what's hot right now is placement of IOLs without sufficient support, or gluing and suturing of lenses.

Q: How are the labs executed?

A: It's like an orchestra with different parts that all come together on the day of the course. These labs require models, animal and human eyes, microscopes, and special machines. Central to the labs' execution is Susan Oslar, the Academy's Technical Programs Manager. We also rely on the help of instructors, all of whom are volunteers and often very busy.

Q: What's new for AAO 2019?

A: We are focused on making things clearer for the participants—we always want them to know what they are signing up for. For example, we have revised some course descriptions to make them more accurate. Several courses offer multiple techniques, and often participants will walk in and say, "I want to do all these techniques," which doesn't always work with our time frame. This year, these labs will have a poster that lists the techniques, explains how they differ, and tells participants how many techniques they may choose to learn. We hope this eliminates any confusion about expectations.

Q: What is one of the best memories



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or experiences you've had with this program?

A: Last year, I took a course on IOL placement because I wanted to experience a Skills Transfer lab firsthand. As a retina specialist, I was excited to take the lab because I do a lot of suture fixation and thought the course might expand my repertoire. What I experienced was phenomenal. I had one-on-one instruction, and my instructor was fantastic: He was patient, courteous, and kind; he showed me videos; and he took extra time to explain things to me. It was nice to see what the courses are like from a participant's perspective.

Q: Who should take a Skills Transfer lab?

A: We offer courses for all physicians; it's just a matter of need. Our 57 courses cover cataract, cornea, plastics, retina, glaucoma, and skills with testing/imaging interpretation.

The skills we offer also vary from simple to complex. Many of the simpler ones are excellent for residents who want to enhance what they're learning in their residency programs.

BEAT THE CLOCK

Registration and Hotels Open Next Month

Get ready to attend AAO 2019 in San Francisco, Oct. 12-15. On June 12, Academy and AAOE members can register and reserve hotel rooms. Nonmembers can do so starting June 26. Online registration will remain open through the meeting.

Fraud alert! Several fraudulent companies, pretending to be associated with the Academy and AAO 2019, may appear in web searches or may have contacted you via email. These companies claim that they can book hotel rooms and/or register you for the Academy's annual meeting, but they are unaffiliated with the Academy. Make sure that you book only through the Academy's website and AAO 2019's official hotel reservation provider, Expovision.

If you are ever in doubt, email meetings@aao.org or call 415-561-8500. You can also contact Expovision directly at aaohotels@expovision.com, or call toll-free at 866-774-0487.

Find more information at aao.org/registration and aao.org/hotels.

Course Pass and Tickets: Buy Them Early

Registration for AAO 2019 gives you access to all Spotlight sessions, symposia, papers sessions, e-posters, videos, Academy Café sessions, and more.

Academy Plus. Purchase an Academy Plus course pass for unlimited access to all Academy and AAOE instruction courses, including Skills Transfer lectures.

Ticketed Events. The following courses are special offerings not covered by general registration or the Academy Plus course pass and must be purchased separately:

- AAOE Practice Management Master Classes;
 - Friday AAOE Coding Master Class and Saturday Coding Sessions;
 - Skills Transfer labs;
 - Subspecialty Day meetings; and
 - Specific special meetings and events.
- Seats for these sessions are limited.

Remember to purchase tickets early. Course pass and ticket prices rise Aug. 8.

Visit aao.org/registration for more information.

PROGRAM

Attend Subspecialty Day

Subspecialty Day meetings feature world-renowned ophthalmologists presenting the latest developments and pearls in the field of ophthalmology. When you register for a meeting, you can float among all the Subspecialty Day meetings taking place that day. Meeting dates are as follows:

One-day meeting on Friday, Oct. 11.

- Refractive Surgery: As Far as the Eye Can See

Two-day meeting on Friday, Oct. 11, and Saturday, Oct. 12.

- Retina: I²—Inspire Innovation

One-day meetings on Saturday, Oct. 12.

- Cornea: Keeping Disease at Bay
- Glaucoma: Crossing the Golden Gate to Exceptional Glaucoma Care
- Neuro-Ophthalmology: Diagnostic Errors and Challenges—Avoid the Traps!

- Oculofacial Plastic Surgery 2010-2019: A Decade to Remember
- Pediatric Ophthalmology: San Francisco Sound Meets Science

Register. Online registration for Subspecialty Day meetings opens June 12 for Academy and AAOE members. Nonmembers may register starting June 26. Visit aao.org/subspecialty-day for more information.

Improve Your Practice With the AAOE Program

Discover innovative ways to increase practice efficiency: Attend the AAOE Program, Oct. 11-15. Choose from more than 80 special sessions, which are free with registration, as well as instruction courses on topics ranging from coding to electronic health records. Admission to courses is via the Academy Plus course pass, which must be purchased separately.

For deeper immersion, attend three-hour Master Classes and intensive coding sessions (ticketed separately) on Friday and Saturday.

Review the program at aao.org/aaoe.

Full AAO 2019 Program Information Available in June

Program Search will launch as part of online meeting registration on June 12. Look up annual meeting sessions by day, topic, type of event/course, special interest, or presenter. You don't have to log in or be a member to view program information, though you will need to log in to build a personal calendar and to register.

Learn more about AAO 2019 at aao.org/annual-meeting.

EVENTS

Attend the Red-Carpet Gala

Join the Foundation for lights, cameras, and action at the 2019 Orbital Gala on Sunday, Oct. 13. At this Hollywood, red-carpet-themed fundraiser, you'll have the rare opportunity to dine, bid on silent auction items, and dance the night away at the historic Palace Hotel. All proceeds support the Academy's programs.

Purchase tickets beginning May 16 at aao.org/foundation.