

Academy Notebook

NEWS • TIPS • RESOURCES

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cathy Grealy Cohen to Receive 2022 Distinguished Service Award

In July, the Academy Board of Trustees voted to award the 2022 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) to Cathy Grealy Cohen, Academy vice president of Governmental Affairs, for her invaluable service to medicine and ophthalmology. For nearly 30 years she has been a champion for Academy members in Washington, D.C.

The DSA is among the Academy's highest awards. The DSA honors an individual or organization for ongoing notable service to ophthalmology and the Academy.

Decades of service. Ms. Cohen's impact includes leading successful advocacy campaigns protecting ophthalmologist payments under Medicare, ensuring appropriate eye care for veterans, and passing the first blindness prevention Medicare benefit for detection of glaucoma.

She led the CMS adoption of updated practice expense costs built into physician payments, bringing ophthalmology hundreds of millions of dollars. She championed the successful passage of legislation making cosmetic contacts a medical device subject to regulation.

Collaborating with state societies



LEADERSHIP. This year's Distinguished Service Award recipient, Ms. Cohen (left), has led many successful advocacy campaigns in Washington, D.C. Here, she's pictured with former Senate Finance Chairman Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) after the repeal of the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate in 2015.

and physician leaders, she has worked to support scope battles at the state level and coordinated a successful campaign that limited performance of laser eye surgery to ophthalmologists in the Veterans Affairs system.

Respected and recognized for her coalition building, Ms. Cohen initiated the Ophthalmology Leadership Advocacy Group, a collaboration between the Academy and subspecialty organizations. She also launched Congressional Advocacy Day, an annual event in Washington that has become a forum for ophthalmologists to participate in educating members of Congress in ophthalmology's priorities and concerns.

Retirement. After almost 30 years at the Academy, Ms. Cohen will be retiring

from her position as vice president of Governmental Affairs in November.

Two DSA awards in 2022. Earlier this year, the Academy Board of Trustees also voted to award the DSA to the Covid Dream Team: James Chodosh, MD, MPH, Gary N. Holland, MD, Thomas L. Steinemann, MD, Sonal S. Tuli, MD, and Steven Yeh, MD.

Attend the award ceremony. DSA recipients will be honored at the AAO 2022 Opening Session, which takes place in Chicago on Friday, Sept. 30, from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Ophthalmology's Impact Factor Rises

Ophthalmology's impact factor increased to a record high of 14.277 in 2021, up from 12.079 in 2020. The analytics company Clarivate shared this data in its annual "Journal Citation Report," noting that impact factor "is a measure of the frequency with which the 'average article' in a journal has been cited in a particular year or period."¹ This rise in impact factor is evidence of the journal's relevance within the field of ophthalmology and success in providing *Ophthalmology's* readership with innovative clinical research. *Ophthalmology* can attribute its success to its authors, reviewers, and editorial board.

¹ <https://clarivate.com/webofsciencelibrary/essays/impact-factor/>.

Ophthalmology Publishes DEI Papers

The Academy Task Force on Disparities in Eye Care is, in part, charged with providing an understanding of current



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knowledge about visual health and disparities, including gaps in data. The task force has just published its first position paper, “Disparities in Vision Health and Eye Care,” by **Angela R. Elam, MD, et al.** This paper provides a comprehensive view of the existing disparities, insight into why and how these disparities persist, and a road map for how eye care providers can help to eliminate disparities and achieve equity in eye care.

Four additional papers by the task force’s subcommittees were published simultaneously with it. They include:

- “Improving Access to Eyecare: A Systematic Review of the Literature,” by **Sharon D. Solomon, MD, et al.**
- “Enhancing Diversity in the Ophthalmology Workforce,” by **César E. Pérez-González, PhD, et al.**
- “The Importance of Health Literacy in Addressing Eye Health and Eye Care Disparities,” by **Hilda Capó, MD, et al.**
- “Data Sources for Evaluating Health Disparities in Ophthalmology: Where We Are and Where We Need to Go,” by **Aaron Y. Lee, MD, MSCI, et al.**

In addition, an editorial—“Why Ophthalmologists Should Care About Disparities in Vision Health,” by **Tamara R. Fountain, MD, et al.**—and five commentaries related to the papers were published alongside them. The commentaries include:

- “Disparities in Vision Health and Eye Care—Where Do We Go from Here?,” by **Angela R. Elam, MD, et al.**
- “Access to Eye Care in the U.S.: Evidence-Informed Decision-Making Is Key to Improving Access for Underserved Populations,” by **Ruth Y. Shoge, OD, MPH, et al.**
- “Improving Ophthalmic Workforce Diversity: A Call to Action,” by **César E. Pérez-González, PhD, et al.**
- “Impact of Health Literacy on Eye Health Disparities,” by **Hilda Capó, MD, et al.**
- “Data Sciences and Vision Health Disparities,” by **Gary Legault, MD, et al.**

Find all these papers and commentaries on *Ophthalmology*’s website at aaojournal.org. In addition to appearing online, the commentaries will be published in print in the October *Ophthalmology*.

TAKE NOTICE

Ukrainian Ophthalmologist to Join LDP XXIV

Nominated jointly by the Ukrainian Ophthalmological Society and the European Society of Ophthalmology, **Olena Hurzhii, MD**, is the Academy’s international participant in the Leadership Development Program (LPD) XXIV. Dr. Hurzhii will attend AAO 2022 in Chicago to participate in the LDP XXIV Class of 2023 orientation. Then she and the other participants will embark on a yearlong program to learn about leadership, advocacy, and association governance. Each class meets in person four times, twice in conjunction with the Academy annual meeting.

Dr. Hurzhii is a uveitis specialist and was the director of medical education at the Visium Eye Care Center in Kyiv before the Russian invasion. After the invasion, Dr. Hurzhii and her family left the capital city for western Ukraine. Dr. Hurzhii participates in the Academy’s Rotary Program and contributes to EyeWiki and the ONE Network. She was also interviewed for the *YO Info* article, “3 Ukrainian YOs Share Their War Experiences,” which also appeared in *EyeNet* (Clinical Update, June).

Read the profile at aao.info/ukrainian-yos.

Attend Eyecelerator on Sept. 29

Eyecelerator is a meeting held by the Academy and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery to showcase and accelerate innovation in eye care. In Chicago, on Thursday, Sept. 29—right before AAO 2022—connect with more than 500 industry leaders, including clinicians, entrepreneurs, investors, and global strategic executives, for an inside look at the emerging business opportunities and advanced innovations disrupting ophthalmology.

Learn more at www.eyecelerator.com.

EyeWiki Contest: Winning Articles Have Been Announced

EyeWiki is the Academy’s collaborative online encyclopedia, where physicians, patients, and the public can view content written by ophthalmologists that covers the spectrum of eye disease, diagnosis, and treatment. Each year EyeWiki hosts two writing contests.



DR. HURZHII. AAO 2022’s LPD XXIV orientation will include a Ukrainian ophthalmologist, Dr. Hurzhii.

One is for U.S. residents and fellows; the other is for ophthalmologists outside the United States. Original articles as well as articles with significant revisions are eligible for either contest.

Winners of the 2022 International Contest were recently announced:

- **Ana Vega Carreiro de Freitas, MD**; University of São Paulo, Brazil:

“Cataract Surgery Training Around the World”

- **Gunjan Saluja, MD**; R.P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, New Delhi, India: “Visual Acuity Assessment in Children”
- **Vakorin Grigoriy, MD**; Ophthalmological Clinic of Innovative Technologies, Yaroslavl, Russia: “Laser Vitreolysis”

Read the articles at www.eyewiki.org/International_Ophthalmologists.

Next contest deadlines. Submit or revise an article at aao.org/eyewiki for the U.S. Residents & Fellows Contest by Dec. 1, 2022, or for the International Ophthalmologists Contest by June 1, 2023.

Volunteer: Promote Ophthalmology to URIM Students

Want to help diversify ophthalmology? You can recruit medical students to be a part of the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program. The program was created by the Academy and the Association of University Professors of Oph-

thallmology to provide tools, resources, and mentorship to help underrepresented in medicine (URiM) students (Black, Hispanic, Native American) become competitive ophthalmology residency applicants.

Volunteers are needed to help promote the program to interested students at local medical schools and college campuses. You'll reach out to educational institutions in your area to promote the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program. Volunteers are asked to familiarize themselves with the program and utilize PowerPoint presentations, flyers, and short videos from the Academy's toolkit to speak about the many facets of ophthalmology, share their personal story about ophthalmology as a rewarding profession, and promote the program as a resource for URiM students.

Get started at aao.org/volunteering, then choose "Connect." (This is just one of many Academy volunteer opportunities.)

IRIS Registry: 2022 MIPS Reporting Transition

Has your practice integrated its electronic health record (EHR) system with the IRIS Registry? By now, your practice should have been notified that this integration is being transitioned from the original vendor, FIGmd, to Verana Health. This transition is being rolled out based on the EHR system that each practice uses.

What about MIPS reporting?

Verana Health has begun introducing new quality measures dashboards for reporting the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Practices using EyeMD or Nextech IntelleChart-PRO EHR systems and using a Verana Health quality measures dashboard will complete 2022 MIPS reporting via Verana Health. All other IRIS Registry participants, including manual reporting practices, will report 2022 MIPS via FIGmd. The remaining IRIS Registry participants using an eligible EHR system will transition to Verana Health for 2023 MIPS reporting.

For an updated list of eligible EHRs and an integration schedule, visit aao.org/iris-registry/ehr-systems.

D.C. REPORT

The Academy, Ophthalmology Remain Committed to Reducing Drug Waste

There has been a growing outcry from ophthalmologists related to the mountain of medical waste that comes from treating patients with ophthalmic conditions.

Action plan. Last year, the Academy developed a multistep action plan for addressing surgical drug waste in ophthalmology. It called for engaging with federal regulators, accreditation organizations, and ophthalmologists and their staff about eliminating waste. (See the plan at aao.org/advocacy/drug-waste.)

Joint policy statement. This spring the Academy achieved another notable milestone with the release of a joint policy statement with the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS), the American Glaucoma Society (AGS), and the Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgery Society (OOSS). In the statement, "Reducing Topical Drug Waste in Ophthalmic Surgery," the Academy outlined key recommendations that ophthalmologists can use to reduce drug waste in facilities and where they practice. The recommendations include:

- Topical drugs in multidose containers can be used on multiple patients in surgical facilities until the manufacturer's labeled date of expiration if proper guidelines are followed.
- When applicable, patients should be allowed to bring partially used medication home for postoperative use.

The policy paper has been endorsed by all 50 state ophthalmology societies. (See the statement at aao.org/clinical-statement/reducing-topical-drug-waste-in-ophthalmic-surgery.)

Mid-Year Forum. At April's Mid-Year Forum, the Academy hosted a drug waste panel, bringing together ophthalmology, industry partners, and the federal government to discuss ways to create a more sustainable practice.

CMS guidance. In June, heeding a request from the Academy and partnering ophthalmic societies to remove obstacles to reducing drug waste, CMS announced new guidance to ambulatory surgery center (ASC) inspectors, clarifying that the 28-day expiration date related to injected drugs does not apply to multidose eyedrops, a big win for the ophthalmic community. (See the document at www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-22-16-asc.pdf.)

The Academy will continue to call for reducing drug waste in ophthalmology as an opportunity to make quality eye care delivery financially and environmentally sustainable.

Urgent MIPS Notice—Get Started on Your 90-Day Performance Periods

Under the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), you will be evaluated on up to four performance categories. Two of these—promoting interoperability and improvement activities—have a performance period that must be at least 90 consecutive days and that must be completed no later than Dec. 31, 2022. (For the other

two performance categories—quality and cost—the performance period is the full calendar year.)

Don't delay. Do not wait until the last moment (Oct. 3) to start performing improvement activities and promoting interoperability measures. An earlier start will provide you with some leeway if you run into difficulty with your MIPS procedures. (Note: To see if you qualify for a hardship exception, visit <https://qpp.cms.gov/>

mips/exception-applications.)

Use the Academy's resources. To access the Academy's MIPS resources—including road maps, the IRIS Registry Preparation Kit, and *EyeNet's* MIPS supplement—visit aao.org/medicare/mips.

OMIC Tip: Clinical and Risk Management Considerations in Medical Decision-Making

OMIC's Risk Management Hotline often receives questions from ophthalmologists about whether a certain procedure is appropriate or recommended for a patient. Answers to this type of question must address two factors: clinical management and risk management.

Clinical management. OMIC does not provide clinical direction or determine the standard of care. For this information, ophthalmologists can consult the relevant Academy *Preferred Practice Patterns*, such as *Cataract in the Adult Eye*, *Refractive Errors and Refractive Surgery*, and more. You can find these at aao.org/ppp.

Risk management. A deviation from accepted practice can be problematic from both a patient safety and a professional liability standpoint. Physicians need to clearly document their reasoning as to why a particular treatment is appropriate and safe for that specific patient, including documenting other treatments—both medical and surgical—that have been tried without success. If a patient wants treatment or

surgery but is not a good candidate, the physician needs to communicate that to the patient, explore alternatives, and document that conversation.

See OMIC's Cataract Surgery Recommendations (www.omic.com/cataract-surgery-recommendations) for examples of how to apply this risk management process. In addition, *Documentation of Ophthalmic Care* (www.omic.com/documentation-of-ophthalmic-care) provides key recommendations on documenting the diagnostic process and more.

OMIC offers professional liability insurance exclusively to Academy members, their employees, and their practices.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

FSO Honors Academy Members at Its Annual Business Meeting

At the Florida Society of Ophthalmology's (FSO) Annual Business Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, in June, Academy members were recognized for four different awards. Sarah R. Wellik, MD, an Academy Leadership Development Program (LDP) graduate, received the John R. Brayton Jr., MD, Leadership Award. Daniel J. Briceland, MD, Academy President-elect, received the Shaler Richardson, MD, Service to Medicine Award. Raquel Goldhardt, MD, FACS, received the James W. Clower Jr., MD, Community Service Award. Helayna E. Brown, MD, received the Michael R. Redmond, MD, Outstanding Young Ophthalmologist Award.

Dr. McCartney Wins TOA's Distinguished Service Award

At the Texas Ophthalmological Association's (TOA) annual meeting in Houston in late April, Academy member



TEXAS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD. Dr. McCartney (right) received the TOA Distinguished Service Award, which was presented by TOA 2021-2022 President Lindsey Harris, MD (left), during the association's annual meeting in Houston.

David L. McCartney, MD, was awarded the TOA Distinguished Service Award.

The Distinguished Service Award is TOA's highest honor. It celebrates members who have gone above and beyond to care for their ophthalmology patients and to advocate for the profession.

Dr. McCartney has been a TOA member since 1988 and has been the chair of the ophthalmol-

ogy and visual sciences at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock since 1994. He has trained countless young ophthalmologists and encourages his residents and fellows to participate in the Academy's Advocacy Ambassador program each year. He has also hosted Codequest in the Texas Tech facilities for several years.

TOA past president Mark Gallardo, MD, summarized Dr. McCartney's contributions. "For those who have not had the pleasure or fortune to have trained under or worked with Dr. McCartney, I can say he is one of our biggest advocates for patient safety," said Dr. Gallardo. "I witnessed it every day on every patient encounter through his delivery of unabraded ethical care."

Watch the Latest From Dr. Osher's Video Journal

The *Video Journal of Cataract, Refractive, and Glaucoma Surgery* (VJCRGS), created by ophthalmic surgeon and educator Robert H. Osher, MD, has been releasing educational cataract, refractive, and glaucoma videos since 1985. The surgical videos are submitted from ophthalmologists around the world and are hand-picked by the VJCRGS editorial board. The second issue of 2022 features highlights of the European



FSO AWARDS. Academy members Drs. Brown (far left), Briceland (center left), Wellik (center right), and Goldhardt (far right) received FSO awards during the Florida society's Annual Business Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida.

Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons video symposium, offering a variety of challenging cases, intra-operative complications, and complex problems following cataract surgery.

Watch now at www.vjcrs.com.

ACADEMY RESOURCES

View the Latest Clinical Guidelines

The Academy *Ophthalmic Technology Assessments* evaluate new and existing procedures, drugs, and diagnostic and screening tests for safety and clinical effectiveness. Review the most recent assessments: *Femtosecond Laser-Assisted Cataract Surgery*, *Orbital Radiation for Thyroid Eye Disease*, and *Adjustable Sutures in the Treatment of Strabismus*.

Find these and other assessments on the ONE Network at aao.org/guidelines.

Attend This Office-Based Oculoplastic Procedures Webinar

On Oct. 25, 8:30-10:00 p.m. ET, join Moderator Mike Yen, MD, for a webinar titled “Office Space: Office-Based Oculoplastic Procedures That Make a Difference” (1.5 CME). This Academy program, which is free to members, will cover topics including:

- intense pulsed light for dry eyes and blepharitis,
- periocular and facial lasers,
- office-based skin care for the eyelids and face,
- facial fillers and management of complications,
- chemical peels for rejuvenating the eyelids and face,
- office-based blepharoplasty, and
- periocular neurotoxins.

Learn more at aao.org/clinical-webinars.

FOR THE RECORD

Life Achievement Honor Award Recipients

Individuals who have cumulatively earned 60 points and have made significant contributions to ophthalmology, as determined by the Academy’s Awards Committee, were nominated to receive

the Life Achievement Honor Award. This year’s recipients are as follows:

Thomas M. Aaberg, MD, MSPH, FACS

Lloyd P. Aiello, MD, PhD

Gerd U. Auffarth, MD

Donald L. Budenz, MD, MPH

Sean P. Donahue, MD, PhD

Steven J. Gedde, MD

Jeffrey S. Heier, MD

Russell N. Van Gelder, MD, PhD

More online. See a list of Senior Achievement, Achievement, and Secretariat Award recipients posted with this article at aao.org/eyenet.

Annual Business Meeting Is on Friday, Sept. 30

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Business Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology will be held Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, in E354 at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago as part of the AAO 2022 Opening Session (from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. CT). Candidates for Academy membership will be approved during this meeting. Following the Annual Business Meeting, election ballots for open board positions and the proposed amendment to the Code of Ethics will be sent to voting fellows and members.

For more information and to see the full program schedule, refer to the Opening Session page of the Mobile Meeting Guide at aao.org/mobile.

Proposed Amendment to the Code of Ethics

The Board of Trustees recommends an amendment to Rule 13 of the Academy’s Code of Ethics for consideration and adoption by members. The amendment will be implemented by a majority vote via the Academy’s election.

To view the proposed Code of Ethics amendment language, visit the Academy’s election page at aao.org/about/governance/elections.

CANDIDATES’ VIEWS

JANE C. EDMOND, MD

Candidate for President-Elect

Career. Pediatric ophthalmology and pediatric neuro-ophthalmology specialist; Wong Family Distinguished

University Chair and Professor; Director, Mitchel and Shannon Wong Eye Clinic, The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School. Throughout my career, I have educated over 450 residents and over 60 fellows and have focused on being a strong advocate for providing care to the underserved.

Academy service. Trustee-at-Large, Board of Trustees; Subspecialty Day in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (planning committee, director); Lifetime Education for the Ophthalmologist committee (chair); Awards committee (chair); Membership Advisory committee (chair); BCSC, Volume 6 (faculty); Communication Advisory Board; *EyeNet* Editorial Board; Membership Services committee; Board of Trustees Nominating committee; Orbital Gala Planning committee. Past President of AAPOS.

Goal. Advance the Academy’s mission of protecting sight and empowering lives; advocate for the best interests for our profession and our members at all times; address impending workforce shortages of ophthalmologists; and champion ophthalmic health equity.



DR. EDMOND.

RAVI D. GOEL, MD

Candidate for Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice

Career. Comprehensive Ophthalmologist & Cataract Surgeon, Regional Eye Associates, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Instructor, Cataract and Primary Eye Care Service, Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia.

Academy service. Current roles: Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice; American Academy of Ophthalmic Executives



DR. GOEL.



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(AAOE) Board of Directors; Member, Communications Secretariat; Academy Delegate to American Medical Association (AMA); and Chair, AMA Ophthalmology Section Council. Past roles: Program Director, Ophthalmology Business Summit; *EyeNet Magazine* Editorial Advisory Board; AAO Revitalization Study Group; Young Ophthalmologist Committee; and Leadership Development Program (LDP VI).

Goal. Practice management is essential as ophthalmic practices face increasing regulatory, payer-based, and nonclinical challenges post-COVID. The Academy must continue to develop cutting-edge initiatives to help colleagues educate, research, and innovate across practice settings and subspecialties. As Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice, I look forward to continuing to work with fellow trustees, AAOE board members, and colleagues in a shared mission of protecting sight and empowering lives.

BENNIE H. JENG, MD

Candidate for Secretary for Annual Meeting

Career. Medical School at University of Pennsylvania; Residency at Cleveland Clinic; Cornea and external diseases Fellowship at Proctor Foundation/UCSF. Faculty positions at Cleveland Clinic, then UCSF, followed by chairmanships at University of Maryland, and now at University of Pennsylvania. Active cornea clinician, surgeon, and researcher.



DR. JENG.

Academy service. Annual Meeting Program Committee (since 2010, now Chair and Associate Secretary); Cornea Subspecialty Day Director; Special Interest Team; Self-Assessment Committee (as Chair); Ophthalmic News and Education Network (including as Chair of Cornea); Research, Regulations, and External Affairs Committee; Awards Committee; Council (two terms); and editorial

boards of *Ophthalmology*, *Ophthalmology Science*, and *EyeNet*.

Goal. My main goal is to ensure that the Annual Meeting provides relevant, innovative, and exciting programming that is the very best opportunity for ophthalmologists around the world to update their knowledge and skills in ways that best fit their learning styles.

LISA DIANE KELLY, MD

Candidate for Trustee-at-Large

Career. Harvard Undergraduate and Medical School; Stanford Residency; Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary Fellowship; Master's degree in Education, Johns Hopkins. Former Director of Cornea Service Stanford University and Chief of Ophthalmology Palo Alto Veterans Administration. Past Examiner American Board of Ophthalmology. Currently, Taylor Asbury Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of Ophthalmology Medical Student Education University of Cincinnati (2013 to present). Director of University of Cincinnati Outpatient Clinics. Chair, UC College of Medicine DEI task force.



DR. KELLY.

Academy service. Elected to the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology DMSE Council (member 2019-2021, Secretary 2022), Honor Award Recipient, Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program metrics subcommittee member (2016 to present), mentor support committee member (2019), and executive committee member (2021 to present).

Goal. To serve and support Academy members in their quest to protect vision and deliver outstanding health care. And to actively engage and represent the diverse perspectives of our membership and stakeholders.

To view the candidates' full statements, visit the Academy's election page at aao.org/about/governance/elections.