American Academy of Ophthalmology
Mid-Year Forum 2024 Preliminary Program

The Mid-Year Forum is one of the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s most significant yearly meetings, bringing the ophthalmology community together to instigate change and shape our profession’s future.

**Wednesday, April 17**

**Congressional Advocacy Day**

- 4:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
  Registration/Information
- 4:00 pm – 9:30 pm  
  Congressional Advocacy Day Appointment Pick-Up  
  Desk Hours: 4:00 pm to 6:45 pm and 8:30pm to 9:30 pm
- 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
  Dinner Briefing  
  **Moderator:** Sohail J. Hasan, MD, PhD – Chair, OPHTHPAC Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Join the ophthalmology community as we descend on Washington to lobby Congress on key issues that protect sight and are important to our profession. All Academy members are urged to take part in this critical event to bring their voices to these important issues. Only you can protect your patients, practice and profession.

- 8:45 pm – 10:00 pm  
  Advocacy Ambassador Program Briefing and Reception – *by invitation only*

**Thursday, April 18**

**Congressional Advocacy Day** (Continued)

- 6:30 am – 10:00 am  
  Congressional Advocacy Day Appointment Pick-Up
- 7:00 am – 6:00 pm  
  Registration/Information
- 7:00 am – 8:00 am  
  Continental Breakfast – Questions and Answers
- 8:30 am – 3:00 pm  
  Scheduled Visits with Members of Congress and Staff  
  Appointments with your members of Congress will be made for you based on your zip code on file at the Academy. For questions or concerns about your appointments, contact Dash Delan at ddelan@aaoad.org or call 202.587.5823.
- 11:30 am – 2:00 pm  
  Luncheon  
  Reserve Officers Association, One Constitution Ave., NE, Washington, D.C.
  A boxed lunch for Academy members visiting Capitol Hill will be available during these hours.

**Thursday, April 18**

**Leadership Development Program**

- 12:30 pm – 2:45 pm  
  Leadership Development Program Luncheon and Meeting – *by invitation only*  
  2060 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Participants in the Academy’s Leadership Development Program XXV, class of 2024, who have been selected through a competitive nomination process, meet in the leadership program which addresses a variety of leadership, advocacy and association management topics.
Learn about changes that impact how you practice, and develop key strategies for successfully implementing new programs into your patient-care approach.

**3:30 pm**

**Welcome and Introduction to Mid-Year Forum 2024**
Stephen D. McLeod, MD - CEO, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Jane C. Edmond, MD - President, American Academy of Ophthalmology

**3:40 pm – 5:30 pm**

**Artificial Intelligence: Shaping the Future of Healthcare and Empowering Ophthalmologists**

**Moderators:** Russell N. Van Gelder, MD, PhD - Editor, *OPHTHALMOLOGY*, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Sally L. Baxter, MD, MSc - Member, Committee on Artificial Intelligence, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Artificial Intelligence has the potential to elevate patient care, reduce costs and increase operational efficiencies for physician practices and healthcare systems. This session will explore potential promises and pitfalls of AI and its impact on Ophthalmology. Attendees will also hear how Congress and the Biden Administration are approaching AI regulation and how their actions could shape the future of AI in healthcare. The session will also offer a practice management component, providing insights on how practices can incorporate AI tools into their daily routines.

Don’t miss this chance to explore the possibilities of AI in ophthalmology!

**5:30 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Council Regional Chair Orientation – by invitation only**

**Moderators:** Prem S. Subramanian, MD, PhD - Council Chair and Lee A. Snyder, MD - Council Vice Chair

Council Regional Meeting chairs are invited to attend a special orientation including a review of the agenda for the regional meetings and responsibilities of facilitating the meetings.

**6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Welcome Reception and Awards Banquet** - Join us for an evening of celebration and enlightenment

**9:15 pm – 11:15 pm**

**Surgical Scope Fund Reception – by invitation only**
Location to be announced.

In appreciation for your support of Surgery by Surgeons in 2024, we invite you to join us to attend this special event. If you have any questions or need to check your giving history, Contact Jackie Schneck at jschneck@aao.org or call 202.587.5828.

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**Friday, April 19**

**Politics. Policy. Practice Management. (Continued)**

Commercial support provided in part by *Allergan* and *Genentech* - Gold Level

**7:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Registration/Information**

**7:00 am – 8:00 am**

**Continental Breakfast**

**7:00 am – 8:00 am**

**Orientation for New Councilors – by invitation only**

*Breakfast available at 6:30 am. Orientation starts promptly at 7:00am.*

**Moderators:** Prem S. Subramanian, MD, PhD - Council Chair and Lee A. Snyder, MD - Council Vice Chair

New Councilors are invited to attend a special orientation that includes an overview of Council operational procedures and responsibilities of Councilors.

**8:00 am – 11:45 am**

**Advocacy Ambassador Program: – by invitation only**

**L.E.A.P. Forward**

*(Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy and Practice Management) – by invitation only*

**Moderators:** Andrea A. Tooley, MD – Chair, Young Ophthalmologist (YO) Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Nathan L. Scott, MD – Member, YO Advocacy Subcommittee, American Academy of Ophthalmology
Advocacy Ambassadors will be inspired and engaged to be successful leaders in their practice setting, community, state and subspecialty society as well as national and international organizations. Young members will network and interact with active leaders in ophthalmology as they participate in panel discussions covering four major areas: Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy, and Practice Management.

8:15 am – 9:45 am

**Hearings (Concurrent Hearings)**

1. Power of Payment Policy
2. Equitable Eye Care Delivery

**Hearing #1. Power of Payment Policy**

**Moderators:** John T. McAllister, MD - Director, Health Policy, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Michael X. Repka, MD, MBA, President-elect; Medical Director, Government Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology

While fee-for-service may cover only half of Medicare beneficiaries, the power of the payment and coverage policies set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services remains strong. The coverage policies developed through Medicare’s national and local coverage determination processes are heavily utilized by both public and commercial payors. The process for Medicare’s coverage development has changed significantly in recent years, relying less upon physician experts. Join us to hear how the ophthalmic community is advocating in response to overly restrictive coverage policies and advocating for patient access to sight-saving care.

**Hearing #2. Equitable Eye Care Delivery**

**Moderators:** Maria A. Woodward, MD, MS - Chair, Task Force on Ophthalmology in Community Health Centers, American Academy of Ophthalmology

This session will highlight efforts to address disparities in eye care delivery and ophthalmology’s leading role in identifying novel solutions to these challenges. Attendees will learn about federal initiatives to advance health equity, as well as the progress that ophthalmologists are making in their community and whether successful models can be scaled to address vision health disparities across the country. Attendees will also hear congressional perspectives on the importance of advancing health equity and aligned legislative priorities.

9:45 am – 10:15 am

**Break**

10:15 am – 11:45 am

**Hearings (Concurrent Hearings)**

1. Preventing Revenue Cycle Management Catastrophes
2. Private Equity, Co-Management, Ethics, and the Impact on Advocacy for Ophthalmologists

**Hearing #1. Preventing Revenue Cycle Management Catastrophes**

**Moderator:** Ravi D. Goel, MD - Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice, American Academy of Ophthalmology

The cornerstone of a financially stable and thriving ophthalmic practice is a streamlined revenue cycle. Achieving success requires ophthalmologists to take an active role in monitoring performance, identifying threats and the ability to rectify effectively. Successful strategies will be explored, including how to pivot from a high-level dashboard report to targeted data elements that can prompt actionable steps to avoid revenue cycle catastrophes. Attendees will receive access to a comprehensive Revenue Cycle Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) toolkit to implement into their practice.

**Hearing #2. Private Equity, Co-Management, Ethics, and the Impact on Advocacy for Ophthalmologists**

**Moderator:** Sidney K. Gicheru, MD - Associate Secretary, Committee for State Organizational Development, American Academy of Ophthalmology
Advocacy, both on the federal and state level, is critical to ensure the highest quality eye care for patients, and the Academy’s mission to safeguard patients and advance the profession of ophthalmology. In this session, we will be examining challenges and benefits ophthalmologists may face when they become acquired by—or proactively join—a private equity group, and the impact that private equity arrangements and co-management have on the Academy’s advocacy agenda to protect the highest standards of surgical eye care. It is critical that all ophthalmologists acquired or employed by private equity understand their rights to advocate on behalf of their profession and their patients. This session will also explore the ethical and legal landscape for private equity group employed ophthalmologists. The goal of this session will be to examine positives and negatives of private equity and the impact that it may have on an Academy member’s ability to speak publicly in support of Academy legislative and/or regulatory priorities, as well as potentially inadvertent violations of the Academy’s Code of Ethics.

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm  Luncheon and Closing Session

Green Ophthalmology: From Passion to Policy to Impact

Moderator: Jeff H. Pettey, MD, MBA - Chair, Committee on Sustainability, American Academy of Ophthalmology

The field of ophthalmology stands at a critical juncture where sustainability and environmental responsibility are not just global concerns but integral aspects of healthcare. Recognizing this, the proposed session, “Green Ophthalmology: From Passion to Policy to Impact,” aims to harness our community’s collective energy and dedication towards creating a more sustainable future in ophthalmology. This session is designed for the diverse attendees of the MYF closing session, a group passionate about their profession and advocating for its future. By bringing together these highly motivated individuals, we aim to transform individual passion into collective action, leading to tangible impacts in the field of ophthalmology. Table discussions will be coordinated at the end of the session.

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm  Break

Friday, April 19  Post Conference Events

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm  Advocacy Ambassador Program: Capitol Hill Wrap Up – by invitation only

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm  Council Opening Session

Unite with your colleagues from ophthalmic state, subspecialty and specialized interest societies to discuss key issues facing our profession.

4:15 pm – 6:00 pm  Council Regional Meetings

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  OPHTHPAC Reception – by invitation only

OPHTHPAC members who contribute to OPHTHPAC in 2024 are invited to attend this lively cocktail reception with a full open bar and hors d’oeuvres. To check your giving history or to make an investment, contact Meredith Allison at mallison@ao.org or call 202.587.5831.

Saturday, April 20  Post Conference Events

7:00 am – 1:00 pm  Meeting Information

7:00 am – 8:00 am  Continental Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:30 am  Council State Section Meeting

8:00 am – 9:30 am  Council Subspecialty/Specialized Interest Section Meeting

9:30 am – 9:45 am  Break

9:45 am – 12:00 pm  Hearing on Council Advisory Recommendations

12:00 am – 1:00 pm  Council Luncheon