



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
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AMERICAN ACADEMY™
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 28, 2017

Region: Great Lakes
Chair: Andrew Tharp, MD IN
Staff: Scott Haber

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Andrew Tharp, MD - Chair
- Jennifer Lin, MD - Retina Society
- Ahmad Aref, MD - Councilor, Illinois
- Judy Kim, MD- Councilor, American Society of Retina Specialists
- Paul Edwards, MD- Councilor, American College of Surgeons, Advisory Council for Ophthalmic Surgery
- David Plager, MD,- Councilor, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
- Erin Benjamin, MD- Councilor, American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology
- Zelia Correa, MD- Councilor, Pan American Association of Ophthalmology
- Kevin Wienkert, MD- Councilor, Wisconsin
- Anne Nachazel, MD- Councilor, Michigan

Guests and Staff

- Mathew MacCumber, MD, PhD, American Academy of Ophthalmology Board of Directors
- Rich Paul, MD, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Ruth Williams, MD, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Chris Albeny, MD, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Sohail Hasan, MD, Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, OPHTHPAC Committee
- John Roarty, MD, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, OPHTHPAC Committee
- Reggie Fields, MD, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Todd Baker, MD, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Stephan Dixon, Resident, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Lee Wiley, Resident, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Rachel Chen, Resident, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Jane Caty, Resident, Ohio Ophthalmological Society
- Philip Hessburg, MD, Ex-Councilor, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Tim Page, MD, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Tom Auburg Jr., MD, President, Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Aaron Holtebeck, MD, Secretary for State Affairs, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Suzanne Falkenberry, MD, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Kevin Flaherty, MD, Representative to AMA, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
- Kim Williams, Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology Executive



II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Aaron Holtebeck*

- Very active year for scope of practice battles at the state level
- Two victories secured in Iowa and Maryland but ongoing battles in Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Nebraska
- In California and Pennsylvania, there is also pending OD surgery legislation
- From small rural states to larger urban states, these battles are occurring and it is only a matter of “when” if your state has not been impacted yet.
- Surgical scope fund continues to be successful and urge continuing support from members

B. OPHTHPAC Update – *John Roarty, MD- Michigan*

- Successful year for OPHTHPAC and commitment from members helped success on a variety of issues including ending Part B Demo, derailing global surgery data collection program, and limiting glaucoma fee cuts.
- Continue to work on building relationships with key members in the House and Senate but need additional support from members
- In our states, need to identify those with relationships with Reps. Rodney Davis (R-IL), Luke Messer (R-IN), Paul Mitchell (R-MI), and Mike Gallagher (R-WI).
- Urge continued support from members for OPHTHPAC, as commitment enables our advocacy efforts to continue to be successful.

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Major challenges exist in Illinois with ODs pushing for ability to do scapel surgeries and prescribing privileges
- The creation of task force with optometry representatives and ophthalmology representatives has promoted negotiations but the task force representatives including OD lobbyists.
- ODs can now prescribe steroids for 10 days and Diamox for up to 30 days.
- These prescribing privileges were a compromise, as ODs continue to push for ability to do surgeries.
- Dr. Hasan spoke to challenges regarding the task force, its make up, and the inability to reason with optometry counterparts.

Ohio Ophthalmological Society

- In Ohio, there is an existing state bill that calls for increased transparency including accurate cost details of patient procedures.
- Continue to have very good communication and relationships with other societies in the states which has been beneficial.
- While not significant legislative concerns at this time, in comparison to Illinois, continuing to monitor and stay active.

Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons



- Michigan remains quiet on the legislative front but continue to stay alert for any changes that may be of concern
- Monitoring action around mandating eye exams for young children, including a mandate for children that fail state exams to undergo an eye exam. Action on this is currently not in Committee but continuing to monitor.

Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology

- The Governor has proposed elimination of the optometric examining board and merging them with medical board.
- Not supported by optometry and they are looking for our help to push back on the proposal.
- Discussion about the potential upside and downsides of eliminating optometric board.
- Dr. Ruth Williams discussed that this is something that has been discussed before
- Dr. Dan Briceland joined the conversation and informed the group that it is likely best to stay neutral and not get involved/take a position on this.

Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology

- Not dealing with the level of legislative activity as other states
- Monitoring telemedicine bill that to date has not gained significant traction.

Retina Society

- Celebrating 50th anniversary
- The Society is also undergoing a voluntary audit

Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology

- Discussed with members of the council their efforts related to their E-Learning Session
- Discussed continued efforts to fundraiser and network with others groups.

American College of Surgeons, Advisory Council for Ophthalmic Surgeons

- A number of concerns exist and have been highlighted by previous discussion
- Continuing work on efforts related to patient access to surgical care
- Newsletter is now being sent out. Dr. Thayer mentioned he had not received and they are going to look into issues with delivery.

American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology

- Continue to have success with getting support for contributions for surgical scope fund
- Very active at Mid-Year Forum
- Challenges exist with American Council on Graduate Medical Education and limitations around osteopathic programs, something that could require Academy assistance in the future.

American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus

- Limitations on pediatric ophthalmology's and mismatches
- Survey reporting that shows a priority issue is that people have "issues working with kids" and that limits interest in field.

American Society of Retina Specialists

- The Society recently launched a retina specific journal, as did AAO.
- Continue to stay engaged on federal level specifically on issues related to accessing compounded drugs and Avastin.
- Discussion of problem with silicon in Avastin injections and ramifications



IV. Review of CARs Submitted

CAR-17-08- The American Academy of Ophthalmic Associates

- Discussion focused on bringing ophthalmic associates into the AAO “tent” and the potential benefits that would bring to the Academy
- Understand that creating this would involve Academy expense up front but adamant that it would be beneficial financially in the long run.
- Dr. MacCumber informed the group that they are reviewing the proposal

CAR-17-06- Eligibility Criteria for Organization Representation in Council

- Discussion focused on eligibility criteria and the need for waivers
- Continuing efforts to revise the current language
- Dr. MacCumber informed the group that they are looking to be as inclusive as possible and that this was a good suggestion with merit

V. New/Other Business

- **No new business but attendees expressed appreciation of Academy advocacy ambassadors, resident participation, and efforts by state affairs/federal affairs.**



AMERICAN ACADEMY™
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 28, 2017

Region: Heartland

Chair: Michelle K. Atchison, MD

Staff: Jessica Kuo

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Michelle K. Atchison, MD, Councilor, North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Jessica A. Claussen, MD, Councilor, South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology
- William S. Clifford, MD, Councilor, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Geoffrey G. Emerson, MP, PhD, Councilor, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology
- Elizabeth H. Gauger, MD, Councilor, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology
- George Harocopos, MD, Councilor, American Association of Ophthalmic Oncologists and Pathologists
- David D. Ingvaldstad, MD, Councilor, Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Gregg T. Lueder, MD, Councilor, American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Ophthalmology
- Carla J. Siegfried, MD, Councilor, American Glaucoma Society
- Linda M. Tsai, MD, Councilor, Missouri Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

Guests and Staff

- Louis B. Cantor, MD, Senior Secretary for Clinical Education, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Keith D. Carter, MD, President-Elect, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Matthew Appenzeller, MD, President, Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Kevin S. Chen, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Nataliya Danylkova, MD, Member, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology
- Luke Dolezal, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Angela Jiang, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Lindsay Knight McConnell, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology/University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
- John Peters, MD, Member, Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Tyler Risma, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology/University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
- Peter H. Tang, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, EyeWiki Contest winner, University of Minnesota
- Daniel Christian Terveen, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Cornea Society
- Andrea A. Tooley, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology
- Yao Wang, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, University of Minnesota
- Jeffrienne S. Young, MD, President, Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology



II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – David D. Ingvoldstad, MD
- Surgical Scope Fund is essential to defeat the many scope battles throughout the nation. Members are encouraged to contribute to Surgical Scope Fund.
 - With support from the Surgical Scope Fund, state ophthalmological societies and the Academy's Secretariat for State Affairs, victories were achieved in Iowa (injection bill) and Maryland (scalpel and eyelid surgery bill).
 - There are ongoing battles in Massachusetts, Florida, and expected legislation to be introduced in California and Pennsylvania.
 - The Secretariat for State Affairs are committed to proactive initiatives. Pennsylvania continues to champion "definition of surgery" bill. Oklahoma and Tennessee succeeded in passing eye drop prescription rebill bills.
 - Anti-technology bills are being introduced and supported by optometrists in several states. The Academy remains neutral on these bills, but is opposed to legislation limiting an ophthalmologist's use of technology for patient care.
 - 2018 LDP nominations are due by May 2, 2017.
- B. OPHTHPAC Update – William S. Clifford, MD
- OPHTHPAC helps supports policymakers that advocate for ophthalmologist and our patients. More than 300 members of Congress helped the Academy on various issues within the past year.
 - Only 16% membership gave a total of \$1.4 million for 2015-2016 cycle. Council giving is at 62% in the current cycle.
 - 137 wins in 155 races supported by OPHTHPAC in the past year.
 - Congressional Advocacy Program: Each representative/senator has an ophthalmologist liaison. 90% are matched. Quarterly webinars are scheduled to update program participants on legislative issues.

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology

- Noridian is reducing reimbursement for MIGS (minimally invasive glaucoma surgery). John Berdahl, MD is spearheading a letter-writing campaign to Noridian and state congress.

Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology

- Big scope battle this year. Proposed legislation would allow optometrists to perform injections and surgeries. Many ophthalmologist members, as well as University of Iowa faculty and residents, have participated in efforts to defeat the bill. Funding from Surgical Scope Fund also enabled the Iowa Academy to hire one lobbyist to fight the bill.
- Planning to compile reference document with ICD-10 codes to match with procedure to share with other states.

Kansas Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- Will continue to offer Medicare and coding webinar.



- Successful rural practice rotation program for 2nd year residents.

American Glaucoma Society

- AGS involved in eye stint/Noridian coding issue.
- AGS Cares is currently recruiting glaucoma specialists to volunteer. This major AGS initiative is a public service program dedicated to provide free surgical glaucoma care to uninsured patients.

American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Ophthalmology

- In February 2016, the AAP sent a letter to the largest national and regional carriers informing them of new AAP published recommendations for vision screening.
- The Section is in the beginning stages of working with the FDA to increase parental/public awareness about the dangers of lasers (laser pointers and laser toys) to the eyes.

Missouri Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- Held annual Eye Screening Day at the state capitol. Would like to hear ideas from others about how to engage more ophthalmologists to get involved.
- Membership is at a four-year high. The MoSEPS board continues to focus on member recruitment and makes personal contact via phone to potential members.

American Association of Ophthalmic Oncologists and Pathologists

- Subspecialty Day at AAO 2016 was successful. Plans to continue on a biennial basis.
- Continues to support Surgical Scope Fund with annual contributions.

Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology

- Continuing efforts to get younger members more involved.
- Working with the Minnesota Medical Association to eliminate the Provider Tax.
- Supporting Early Eye Drop Refill bill; the bill passed 65-0 in committee.

Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Convened a consortium of subspecialty societies to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss what issues are affecting medicine. LB 391 was a joint effort with the American Medical Association, American Dermatology Society and NAEPS.
- 81% of ophthalmologists in Nebraska are NAEPS members. \

North Dakota Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- NDSEPS members worked along with the NDMA to oppose SB 2123 which would extend drivers' license renewal to every 8 years and HB 1299 allowing online renewal every other cycle. Together, these two bills would require drivers to pass a vision exam only once every 16 years. SB 2123 failed but another amended bill, SB 1299, passed along with HB 1299. The final result requires drivers' license renewal every 6 years. Every other cycle, drivers can submit a copy of a recent eye exam online to satisfy the vision requirement. They were hoping to continue to require vision testing for every renewal, but the final outcome was a compromise.



IV. Review of CARs Submitted

CAR 17-08 – The American Academy of Ophthalmic Associates

- Nebraska think this may facilitate conversation among various ophthalmic/optometric groups.
- Iowa expressed concerns about the impact on scope battles.
- Kansas see the CAR as a way to keep the Academy/ophthalmologist as the captain of eye care team.
- South Dakota inquired about interest among optometrists.

CAR 17-10 – Lifetime Certification: Time to Reconsider

- American Association of Ophthalmic Oncologists and Pathologists suggest modifying CAR to say it should be a requirement for all lifetime board diplomats to voluntary exchange lifetime certificates to a 10-year recertification. Proposal supported by Nebraska.
- Dr. Cantor, Senior Secretary for Clinical Education, stated that the Academy meet with ABO twice a year to discuss concerns and ophthalmologist needs, in an advisory role.

CAR 17-11 – Assuring Certified Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant's Success

- The objective is unclear. Unsure if the goal is to ensure those who are ophthalmic trained assistants are included (JACHPO).

CAR 17-12 – Student Athlete Eye Protection

- May be feasible on a state-by-state basis. However, it may be difficult to implement mandates.

Adjourned at 5:58 p.m.



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS Friday, April 28, 2017

Region: Metro East

Chair: Gary Hirshfield, MD (NY)

Staff: Jessica Peterson

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Gary Hirshfield, MD, Chair, Councilor, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Gareth Lema, MD, PhD, Councilor, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Peter Menger, MD, Councilor, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Martin Lederman, MD, Councilor, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Cecily Lesko, MD, FACS, Councilor, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- John Stabile, MD, Councilor, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Donald Cimotti, MD, Councilor Emeritus, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- David Armesto, MD, Councilor, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- James Dickey, MD, Councilor, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Sharon Taylor, MD, Alternate Councilor, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Dorothy Moore, MD, Councilor Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology

Guests and Staff

- William Rich, MD, FACS; Medical Director of Health Policy, AAO
- Daniel Briceland, MD: Council of Secretaries Representative to the Regional Council
- Christopher Rapuano, MD, Council of Secretaries Representative to the Regional Council
- Ken Cheng, MD, Chair of the Surgical Scope Fund Representative to the Regional Council
- Arnold Prywes, MD, President, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Robin Pellegrino, Executive Director, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Brandon DeCalve, New York State Ophthalmological Society
- Denise Farnath-Alber, MD, President, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Matthew Halpin, Executive Director, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Ralph Lanciano, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Daniel Rubinstein, New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology
- Jennifer Keeler, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
- Angela Warren, Associate Director, Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology
- Poonam Misra, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Rachel Shah, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Eileen Choundhary Bowden, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Helen Jiang, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Kristine Panganiban, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, New York
- Christopher Lo, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, New York University
- Zach Landis, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Pennsylvania
- Alexander Port, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
- Michelle Rhee, MD, Advocacy Ambassador



II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – Ken Cheng, MD

- Surgery by Surgeons' leadership and staff of academy pushing from grass-tops to grass-roots.
- Scope Battle prominent victories: Iowa and Maryland.
- Active states battles are currently in Alaska, Florida, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Georgia, and North Carolina
 - Florida was and is an incredibly expensive battle
 - Georgia's is already on the governor's desk
- Therapeutic Expansion Legislation Oral Medications: New York and Texas
- Expecting legislation:
 - California: OD Surgery again
 - Pennsylvania: OD Injections
- Pre-emptive Activity to educate state legislatures in states where scope-of-practice battles are on the horizon or imminent: Delaware, Mississippi, Texas.
- Surgical Scope Fund needs your contributions which will be directed only to scope-of-practice battles, and prevention through proactive legislation.
- State funding assistance for proactive initiatives and eye drop legislation is available.
- Combined Dues Mailing Program: Due May 8.
- Nominees for the next class for the Leadership Development Program are due May 2.
 - There was an impassioned call-to-action for the Advocacy Ambassadors to take ownership of the issues and continue advocacy

B. OPHTHPAC Update – Dorothy Moore, MD

- With 2016 being an election year, it makes a difference for all to make your contributions to OPHTHPAC.
- Our Academy members gave 1.465 million which helped us get two new medical professionals in Congress during the last elections, and 88% win rate on all elections.
 - Goal for this year is to get to \$2 million and 100% membership participation
 - Only 68% have contributed this year, call for contributions
- Halted Medicare Part B Proposal
- Halted Global Surgery Periods
- Scaled back cuts to glaucoma and retinal procedures
- MACRA implementation: The Academy will have the ear of leaders willing to slow the process down and rein in CMS. CMS's process isn't evidence based.
 - We need friends on Capitol Hill to maintain and improve vision research funding, fight fee cuts, preserve Medicare Part B funding and access to compounded medications
- Congressional Advocacy Program: Match an Academy member with each Member of Congress.
 - 90% right now, but we would like to get that to 100%
- Launched a quarterly speaking series, the first webinar was in March



- Do one thing to get to know your state legislators at home; as important as federal lawmakers.
- Copeland Fund – donations will go toward establishing a grant fund to bring more ophthalmology residents and fellows to Congressional Advocacy Day as part of our advocacy efforts and as part of our dedication to fostering leaders.

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

A. Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology

- Scope battle win: No OD surgery allowed
- Waiting for them to establish further regulations, which they are doing piecemeal
- Just elected a new board
- Having trouble getting members into leadership because small society, even with good penetrance

B. New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology

- No scope battle in NJ
- Heading into elections, vigilant about lame duck period
 - Last 7-8 months of governor Christi's term
- Telemedicine legislation that is moving forward in NJ
- Dues check off box on membership mailings to donate \$50 to OPHTHPAC and 99%+ acceptance by members
- Third-party payer consultant that advises their members
- New: Winter retreat in January, nearly 100% attendance of Board of Trustees members, including strategic planning session
- Continuing outreach to Young Ophthalmologists

C. New York State Ophthalmological Society

- SB 5235 would authorize optometrists to prescribe oral drugs; would require education and oversight
- All physicians in NY that have a state license are required to take a 3 hour course every 3 years on pain management and safe use of narcotics; no class of physicians will be exempted
 - They elected not to oppose the state house of medicine on this
- Medical Marijuana bill passed; NYSOS removed glaucoma as an allowed indication in the bill
- Drafting a bill allowing technicians to administer drops under ophthalmologist supervision after taking a course
- Continuing outreach to Young Ophthalmologists

D. Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology

- Scope-of-practice battles:
 - No definition of ophthalmic surgery: Have been trying for 15 years to get a bill through the state legislature to define surgery. Not successful in passing, but successful in preventing OD-sponsored legislation
 - Every legislator in the state legislature knows the difference between ODs and ophthalmologist
 - Optometrists will have another bill introduced this year, but expectations are gridlock
 - Bill that may pass in PA would allow NPs to practice without physician supervision
 - Maintaining grassroots support and maintain engagement



- Quality Eye Care for Insured Pennsylvania's Act: Removes exclusions under insurance and state insurance that would effectively prevent provider participation in the plan
 - Introduced by Optometric Association; Gingerly supported by society
- Another bill would allow comprehensive eye care examinations for all school-age children
 - APOS has a model bill generated recommending *screening* for all school-age children, rather than comprehensive and the PAO has forwarded that as a bill in PA
- The PAO wrote a detailed response to the LCD regarding definitions of glaucoma
- The PA state society is co-sponsoring a meeting with WV to collaborate

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

- A. 17-12: Student Athlete Eye Protection (From Metro East region)
 - All states in favor
- B. 17-01: Prevention of Pediatric Ocular Injuries
 - No comment
- C. 17-02: Collaboration between VHA and Academic Ophthalmology
 - No comment
- D. 17-03: Promoting Advocacy Among Residencies Through Competition
 - Discussion regarding likely efficacy and need
 - PA in favor: Anything to get residents in the door
 - NJ expresses concern about need and lack of intrinsic motivation being the driving factor for maintaining engagement
 - Advocacy Ambassadors generally do not believe that it will change behavior
- E. 17-04: Tracking the Effects of Advocacy Programs
 - NJ: Brought this program up a couple of years ago and it didn't meet with great support
 - Region councilors in favor or the Academy closing the loop, giving state societies information
- F. 17-05: Academy Leadership & State Society Membership
 - NJ and PA in favor
- G. 17-06: Eligibility Criteria for Organization Representation in Council
 - No comments
- H. 17-07: Facilitation of Human Eye Donation for Research
 - No comments
- I. 17-08: The American Academy of Ophthalmic Associates
 - None in favor due to ophthalmologists being placed in the same package as technicians
 - PA in favor of establishing task force to explore for ophthalmologist-employed optometrists
- J. 17-09: Integrating Advocacy into Maintenance of Certification
 - No comment
- K. 17-10: Lifetime Certification: Time to Reconsider
 - Delaware not in favor due to risk of losing lifetime certification
 - NJ, PA, finds the treatment at the recertification to be degrading
 - PA wonders where the data supporting improved quality of care exists



- L. 17-11: Assuring Certified Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant's Access
 - General support for allowing surgical assistants to be defined much like surgical techs
 - Concern about the cost to ASCs
- M. 17-13: Creating Strategies to Increase AAO Member Engagement in Eliminating Eye Care Disparities
 - "Great CAR minus any potential mandates"

V. New/Other Business

- AAO Website: The website is extremely hard to navigate; difficult to find things; search function does not work well
- Request for information: There were requests for lists of states with OD scope-of-practice laws already on the books

Adjourned at: 5:52 pm



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 28, 2017

Region: Mid-Atlantic
Chair: Edgar Gamponia, MD
Staff: Matt Daigle

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

Edgar Gamponia, MD, Councilor, West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Laura Green, MD, Alternate Councilor, Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Maria Scott, MD, Councilor, Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgery Society
Reshma Katira, MD, Councilor, Washington DC Metropolitan Ophthalmological Society
Anthony Viti, MD, Councilor, Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Woody Van Meter, MD, Councilor, Eye Bank Association of America
Bennie Jeng, MD, Councilor, Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists
William Gensheimer, MD, Alternate Councilor, Society of Military Ophthalmologists
Julie Lee, MD, Councilor, Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Emily Chew, MD, Councilor, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

Guests and Staff

Mark Mayle, MD, LDP Participant
Lee Snyder, MD, President, Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Jamie Ennis Bloyd, Executive Director, Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Mohamad Jaafar, MD, FCAS, Councilor Emeritus
Alexandros Pappas, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Faisal Ridha, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Valerie Lerebours, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Katrina Chin Lay, MD, Academy Member
Cristina Lopez, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Michael Wallace, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Joshua Atkinson, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Sumeet Gupta, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Jesse Himebaugh, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Janelle Adeniran, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Mark Mugavin, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Matthew Shulman, MD, Advocacy Ambassador
Michael Hodges, MD, AAO Committee Member
Mehal Patel, MD, Academy Representative
Stephanie Marioneaux, MD, OPHTHPAC Committee Member
Andrew Prince, MD, Board of Trustees, AAO
Sonny Goel, MD, Board of Trustees, AAO
Michael X. Repka, MD, Medical Director of Governmental Affairs, AAO



II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – *Alan Wagner, MD, Laura Green, MD – State Affairs update*
 - 1. Unprecedented amount of optometric scope challenges
 - a. Vaguely worded surgical proposals in MD, AK, FL, MA, NE, CA and others
 - b. Oral drugs expansion by optometry
 - c. Proactive measures to protect surgery by surgeons requires funding
 - d. Early eyedrop refill bill puts us in a good light in each state
 - e. Anti-technology legislation
 - 2. Education and development
 - a. LDP continues to produce leaders for the Academy
 - b. Application due date is May 2
 - 3. Combined dues mailing program
 - a. Deadline is May 8
 - 4. New state executives – reach out to them
 - a. Can we ask state societies to give an annual update?
 - b. Each should indicate where their satellite offices are and a substantial PAC
 - c. Databases of state legislators are needed and should be made readily available to members
- B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Stephanie Jones Marioneaux, MD, Woodford Van Meter, MD*
 - Goal is to protect friends in Congress, and to get more physicians and dentists elected
 - Dollars were well-spent – high percentage of wins, netted one more physician in the U.S. House of Representatives
 - Trying raise \$2 million this year
 - 96 percent of council contributed last year – hoping to match it
 - Legislative highlights
 - Defeated Medicare Part B demo
 - Protected retina/glaucoma fees
 - Prevent data blocking
 - Copeland Fund

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

Washington DC Metropolitan Ophthalmological Society

- Collaborating with MD to support their scope fights
 - Montgomery County, MD is key for MD's scope battles so DC ophthalmologists with ties there are helping



- Reinforcing need to donate to PAC

Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- GOP sweep of leadership
 - Vision testing for driver license renewal – proposal stalled
- No significant legislative issues
 - Accomplished using PAC dollars
 - Size of PAC gives more credibility
- Bourbon-tasting and Silent Auction – very fun, effective event, raised \$6,500, drug reps come and try to outbid physicians, guests come and contribute

Maryland Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

- Hit with large scope battle – first in a while – referred for study, will likely return next year
 - Will prepare for return engagement this summer
 - Relationships with legislators helped significantly
 - Need to overlay drive-time data and compare to other amenities like Walmart
 - Must convey difference in training between ophthalmologists and optometrist
- Vision therapy legislation

Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Passed DMV safe-driving legislation
- Opternative/technology legislation

West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Quiet currently
- PAC fund was 90 percent successful
- Believe that there a strong contingent of pro-ophthalmology lawmakers

Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgery Society

- Tying reimbursement to hospital market baskets
- ASC quality reporting measures – ensuring they're appropriate
- Meeting Nov. 11
- Analytics benchmarking if you need to get scrub techs trained
- Partnering with ASCRS and AAO to provide guidance on providing free cataract surgery in underserved communities

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology



- 50 percent of membership is international but still advocate for funding for NIH
- Research is everyone's responsibility
- Looking for donor material for research – joint initiative with AAO to educate to public how important it is to donate human tissue

Eye Bank Association of America

- Partnering with ARVO to make more corneal tissue available
- Glaucoma shunt tissue payment issue
- Need unobstructed source of funding – to keep them free of these pressures will enable them to continue serving the population

Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists

- Mostly focused on public health
 - Cosmetic contact regulations
- Partner with FDA on safety workshops, myopia control
- Contact Lens Rule – submitted comments opposing administrative requirements (3-year record keeping), no changes to the passive verification requirement

Society of Military Ophthalmologists

- 250 active-duty members
- Lack of funding support makes it difficult to travel to conferences for CME – pursuing ways to get discounted training.

General

- Need patients to provide stories of misdiagnosis
- TulaneEyeHealth.com
 - Report optometric misdiagnosis

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

- Collaborate with eye banks to get tissue for research
- Ask air gun companies to provide information on eye protection
- Competition among residency programs promoting engagement and commitment to advocacy
- State society leadership requirement
- Advocacy component of maintenance certification
- Develop metrics to track effectiveness of advocacy programs



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V. New/Other Business

- Dr. Van Meter ask for support in his election.
- Recognize and thank resident attendees of the Mid-Year Forum.

Meeting adjourn at 5:49 p.m.



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 28, 2017

Region: Mountain West
Chair: James B. Earl, MD
Staff: Lisa Pinkston

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Rebecca Braverman, MD, Councilor, Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- James B. Earl, MD, Councilor, Idaho Society of Ophthalmology
- James G. Howard, MD, Councilor, Utah Ophthalmology Society
- Anne E. Miller, MD, Councilor, Wyoming Ophthalmological Society
- Kamalesh J. Ramaiya, MD, Councilor, New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology
- Brian T. Rose, MD, Councilor, Arizona Ophthalmological Society
- Prem Subramanian, MD, Alternate Councilor, North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society
- Craig L. Wilkerson, MD, Councilor, Montana Academy of Ophthalmology

Guests and Staff

- Pavan Angadi, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Washington, DC
- Ashlie A. Bernhisel, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Utah
- Sheila Bush, Executive Director, Wyoming Ophthalmological Society
- Robert C. Davidson, MD, President-Elect, Arizona Ophthalmological Society
- Kathleen M. Duerksen, MD, Member, American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS)
- Richard M. Feist Jr., MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Utah
- Steve M. Friedlander, MD, Member, Secretariat for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Nanette Gilbertson, Executive Director, Montana Academy of Ophthalmology
- David W. Johnson, MD, Member, OPHTHPAC Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Rahul Khurana, MD, Editor-in-Chief, ONE Network, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Alan E. Kimura, MD, MPH, President, Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Laura Lewis, Governmental Affairs Consultant, Wyoming Ophthalmological Society
- Annette Mahler, Executive Director, Utah Ophthalmology Society
- Ron W. Pelton, MD, PhD, Member, Secretariat for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Leo Seibold, MD, President-Elect, Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Robert Spurny, MD, Councilor Emeritus, Arizona Ophthalmological Society
- Erin Trimble, Executive Director, Idaho Society of Ophthalmology
- Robert E. Wiggins, MD, MHA, Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice, American Academy of Ophthalmology

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – Ron W. Pelton, MD, PhD

- State societies and Academy, with critical support from Surgical Scope Fund, have secured two patient victories in Iowa and Maryland
 - Iowa: defeated effort to add injections/anesthesia into the eyelid surgery to optometric scope of practice.
 - Maryland: derailed an optometric attempt to add scalpel and laser surgery to their scope of practice
- There are ongoing scope of practice battles in several states, including:
 - Alaska – OD surgery bill. Surgical Scope Fund is being used heavily to support grassroots efforts, via media ads, Facebook, etc.
 - Florida – OD surgery bill that would allow optometrists to perform all but 18 named eye surgeries.
 - Massachusetts – bill would allow the optometry board to define “invasive surgery”
 - Nebraska – OD scope expansion would allow eyelid injections and eyelid surgery.
 - Georgia
 - California – Aggressive OD surgery initiative has been put forward in each of the past four years, with support from a powerful state senator who is himself a practicing optometrist. A bill without surgery language came out of the Assembly, surgery language is likely to be added back by the Senate.
 - Pennsylvania – Expect optometrists to reintroduce an injections bill.
- Proactive ophthalmology legislation
 - Pennsylvania – definition of surgery bill
 - Multiple states – Early Eye Drop Refill bills have been enacted in Oklahoma and Tennessee (pending Governor’s signature, and introduced in MN, TX and FL.
- OD “Anti-Technology” Legislation – While Academy remains neutral on issue of refraction technology, the Academy remains opposed to any state or federal legislation that would limit an ophthalmologist’s license by restricting the ophthalmologist’s ability to determine whether the new technology is in the best interest of patients.
- Contribute to the Surgical Scope Fund
 - This has been an unprecedented year in state legislation, and states’ need for financial support from the Surgical Scope Fund has been especially high. We need help from you, your members and your society: contribute the Surgical Scope Fund and encourage others to contribute.

B. OPHTHPAC Update – David W. Johnson, MD

- Focusing this year on explaining how contributions to OPHTHPAC are being used. One example of that is the infographic found in the Congressional Advocacy Day legislative briefing book.
 - Approximately 3700 Academy members invested in OPHTHPAC during the last cycle
 - \$1.5 M raised, and \$1.1 M disbursed, with an 88% success rate for the races OPHTHPAC supported.
 - In the last cycle, OPHTHPAC had victories on several regulatory issues, including derailing the Medicare Part B Drug Demo and scaling back the fee cut for glaucoma
 - In this cycle, the focus will be on supporting friends of ophthalmology.
- Congressional Advocates: There are several freshman legislators in Congress, for whom we’d like to assign ophthalmologists who will serve as Congressional Advocates.

- A Congressional Advocate is someone who will: Establish a personal relationship with the legislator; Attend/host fundraisers for the legislator; Volunteer for the legislator's campaign; Deliver OPHTHPAC check to the campaign
- Legislators for the Mountain West region are largely matched, except for an open seat in Montana and Rep. Cheney in Wyoming. OPHTHPAC committee member or staff will reach out to societies in those states for suggestions.
- The Robert A. Copeland Jr., MD Advocacy Education Fund, was established last year in honor of to support travel expenses for one resident to attend the Academy's Mid-Year Forum in Washington, DC. The fundraising effort is about half-way to its \$50,000 goal, and we encourage all members to donate to this important fund.

III. Key Society Highlights

Arizona Ophthalmological Society (AOS)

- Leadership succession continues to be a problem, in part due to member fear of OD retribution for the society's patient safety arguments against optometric scope expansion.
- The AOS Foundation's Mobile Eye Unit's new truck and trailer have been outfitted and are ready for use. The unit was debuted at the Day at the Legislature Glaucoma Screening in January.
- The society has worked to increased profile of ophthalmology and goodwill with state legislators. The AOS held a luncheon at the legislature, and an ophthalmologist served as doctor of the day.
- The society has had a challenge getting cooperation among medical specialties to address problems with paraprofessionals.

Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (CSEPS)

- Have experienced problems getting members to renew their membership, so have created and recently launched a member poll to identify what the member values about the society, and what challenges do members face.
 - Early poll results include:
 - 62% of members have responded to the poll
 - Respondents reaffirmed that advocacy was very important society activity.
 - Communication with members was the second most important activity (society has a robust e-newsletter)
 - Social mixers are also valued by members. These events have no agenda, are only intended as opportunities to meet with colleagues. CSEPS also holds joint mixers with the optometry society, to (similarly) build relations among practitioners.
 - Data from this poll will be used help define a society strategic plan.
- In collaboration with the state medical society, CSEPS participated in a listening session with the CO division of insurance. While the division of insurance is generally only interested in hearing from patients, ophthalmologists shared patient stories at this event which opened the door for further dialogue between the Div. of Insurance and CSEPS.

Idaho Society of Ophthalmology (ISO)

- An excerpt from an Idaho state medical association newsletter summarizes a challenge that the ISO is facing: Idaho has the worst patient access to physicians in all classes, in all regions of the state. The state is struggling to increase access and to address a shortage of health care providers. Thus, multiple allied health professions

are seeking expansion of scope of practice in the name of increasing access to care. In the absence of proof of harm, legislators are inclined to permit increased scope to allow patients to obtain care from whomever will provide it, on the premise that any care is better than no care.

Montana Academy of Ophthalmology (MAO)

- Challenge: MAO is having trouble getting members involved/engaged in legislative activity, including proactive legislation.
- MAO continues to have successful with its winter educational meeting (the Big Sky Regional Meeting, in February). The number of out of state attendees is high. They list the event on AAO.org events calendar and promote it to ophthalmologists in nearby states. MAO hopes to increase attendance by in-state ophthalmologists.

New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology (NMAO)

- The society also had difficulty recruiting members to serve in leadership. A large practice in the state had difficulty with optometric referrals for 3 years after one of their physicians served in society leadership.

North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS)

- The society is transforming to become more involved in advocacy. They have sponsored a Advocacy Ambassador to attend the Academy's Mid-Year Forum, and have created a new position on the board: vice president for advocacy.
- Despite this new energy and focus, the society has found that they do not have sufficient resources to hire/retain a Federal lobbyist.

Utah Ophthalmology Society (UOS)

- A significant challenge the society is facing is in recruiting members to serve in leadership roles.
- The partnership with Moran Eye Center on a small incision cataract surgery course has been very popular with members. The course participants have included 50% Moran residents and 50% UOS members. To date, nearly all UOS members have done the course. Thus, they have seen a big increase in humanitarian outreach efforts among Utah ophthalmologists.

Wyoming Ophthalmological Society (WOS)

- Most significant pitfall continues to be that Wyoming is a large state with few members. The society polled members on their interest in participating in a state society meeting in collaboration with the state medical society, but only one WOS indicated positive interest in attending.

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

- Attendees reviewed each of the 13 CARs. No action by the region was discussed.

V. New/Other Business

- Discussion of leadership recruitment
 - Expose ophthalmologist to the society earlier in their careers (i.e., medical school students and ophthalmology residents), via events like the society's day at the Capitol and society's networking events.
 - Use the Academy's Leadership Development Program as a leadership pipeline.
- Possible Council Advisory Recommendation for 2018: AAO financial support to small states who want to send an Advocacy Ambassador to Mid-Year Forum.

- The WWAMI states (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) have previously collaborated to jointly fund Advocacy Ambassadors. The region may want to revisit this joint effort as another source of funding.



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COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 28, 2017

Region: New England

Chair: Linda Schumacher-Feero, MD, Councilor, Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Staff: Cherie McNett

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Ed Lim, MD, Councilor, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- David Riveria, MD, Alternate Councilor, Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- John Mandeville, MD, Councilor/President, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Jeff Young, MD, Councilor, Vermont Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Lloyd Wilcox, MD, Councilor, New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Paul Greenberg, MD, Councilor, Veterans Affairs, Rhode Island

Guests and Staff

- Cindie Mattox, MD, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Board of Trustees
- Christie Morse, MD, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Board of Trustees
- Jeffrey Sandler, MD, Councilor Emeritus, Connecticut
- Jean Ramsey, MD, member, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- David McCullough, MD, President, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- David Emmel, MD, Legislative Chair, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- William Ehlers, MD, Joint Commission of Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology, Representative, Connecticut
- Steve Thornquist, Member, Secretariat for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Jeff Maltzman, MD, Chair, OphthPAC
- Vy Nguyen, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Boston Medical College, MA
- Vinny Keshav, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Boston Medical College, MA
- Sona Chaudhry, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Boston Medical College, MA
- Grayson Armstrong, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Hospital, Massachusetts
- Russ Levine, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Yale, Connecticut
- Kyle Kovacs, MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Yale, Connecticut
- Jennifer Chen, Executive Director, Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Gordon Smith, Executive Director, Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

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



- Surgical Scope Fund has faced significant issues and new funds are needed in order to ensure that it can provide the assistance needed for the future.
- Surgical Scope Funding helped secure victories in Maryland and Iowa
- The numbers of states with pending legislative battles included Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Alaska, California and Nebraska
- Additional funds are also available through the Quality Eye Care Program for the States for proactive state initiatives such as early glaucoma eye drop refill efforts.
- This year we have seen big increases in state bills that seek to restrict new technology. The Academy is neutral in such cases unless there is an effort to restrict some ophthalmologists use of any technology that would be beneficial for patient care. Contact State Affairs for help with talking points for these types of situations.

B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Jeff Maltzman, MD, Chair*

- For the 2015-2016 election cycle we raised nearly \$1.5 million with approximately 3700 contributors.
- OphthPAC contributions led to successful outcomes in 137 out of 155 political races.
- Through the efforts of OphthPAC we achieved a significant number of victories on the federal level including halting the Part B Drug Payment demo and the elimination of global surgical payments as well as turning back the cuts to retina and glaucoma procedures.
- Over 300 Members of Congress took action for the Academy in order to achieve those successes.
- A participation rate of 20 percent is an achievable goal for 2017 which would be an increase from previous rate of 15 percent.
- We need to duplicate our 2016 96 percent participation rate from the Council and as of now we are lagging behind.
- There are 60 new Members of Congress and we need to make sure that we introduce them to and educate them about our profession. We have Congressional Advocates matched to nearly 90 percent of Members of Congress. Please sign up to be an Advocate if you haven't already and help us promote this important program in your states.
- It is important to give to both OphthPAC and the Surgical Scope Fund
- Finally, don't forget the new program honoring Robert Copeland, MD, who was a tireless advocate and mentor. We want to remember his efforts and continue his legacy to promote advocacy to not only his residents at Howard University but to all our members.

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

Maine Society of Eye Physicians of Surgeons

- Major effort to work on a comprehensive policy on bioptics usage with all stakeholders. Then the state legislature introduced a bill to allow bioptics for driving.
- A bill prohibiting requirements for maintenance of certification is being supported by psychiatry and internal medicine.



- State society has steady participation at over 80% and is holding its spring and fall meetings as well as a physician day at the state capitol.

New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- The opioid crisis continues to take a heavy toll and the legislature recently passed a restrictive bill that limits the number of days for prescriptions and requires a patient registry.

Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Department of Public Health did a wholesale revision of the rules for ambulatory surgical centers.
- The Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission reviewed the states restrictions on eye drop prescriptions did not find any wrongdoing.
- A successful initiative to increase membership focused on academic centers last year.

Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- This year bills that would restrict maintenance of certification requirements as well as anti-technology bills are still pending.
- There have been no legislative efforts to expand scope of practice.

Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- The legislature has an equal distribution of both parties in each house which is stalling most legislative initiatives including the budget.
- A definition of surgery bill has also been delayed but will be reintroduced next year.
- Working to expand a law that prohibits limitations on payment rates for non-covered services for optometrists to include ophthalmology.

Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

- Continuing their longstanding commitment to education and certification programs.
- Working to ensure that there are no limits placed on the services that ophthalmic technologists can perform.
- Sponsoring a CAR to promote ophthalmic assistants in surgery.

Veteran's Administration

- No update

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

- The only CAR discussed was 17-11 Assuring Certified Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant's Access.
- Dr. William Ehlers briefed the group on the purpose and need for the CAR and requested endorsement and broad support for it in order to ensure that specialized assistants such as in ophthalmology are not disenfranchised by the legislative efforts of other non-ophthalmic surgical assistant groups.

V. New/Other Business

- No new business reported.



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 28, 2017

Region: Pacific Coast
Chair: Troy Elander, MD
Staff: Michael Levitt

I. Welcome

Dr. Elander introduced himself, welcomed attendees and asked them to introduce themselves.

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Vincent S Hau MD, American Society of Retina Specialists, Alternate Subspecialty Councilor
- David S. Zumbro, MD, Alaska Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, State Councilor
- Vineet N. Batra, MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, State Councilor
- JoAnn A Giaconi MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, State Councilor
- Leah Levi MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, State Councilor
- Troy R Elander MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, State Councilor
- George Nardin MD, Hawaii Ophthalmological Society, Alternate State Councilor
- Hardeep S Dhindsa MD, Nevada Academy of Ophthalmology, State Councilor
- Dinelli M Monson MD, Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology, State Councilor
- Brian E Bowe MD, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, State Councilor
- Bryan S Lee, MD JD, American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery, Subspecialty Councilor

Guests and Staff

- Steve Friedlander MD, American Academy of Ophthalmology, State Affairs, Representative
- Lynn Gordon MD, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Vice Chair of the Council
- Michael Chiang MD, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Board of Trustees
- Donald Fong MD, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Rapid Evidence Assessment Committee, Chair
- Aaron Weingeist MD, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Legislative Chair
- Craig Kliger MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, Chief Executive Officer



- Sally Liu Baxter MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Resident, Advocacy Ambassador
- Neil H Farbman MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Fellow, Advocacy Ambassador
- Martha Henao MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, Resident, Advocacy Ambassador
- Eugene Lowry MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, Resident, Advocacy Ambassador
- Irma Muminovic MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, Resident, Advocacy Ambassador
- Chengjie Zheng, MD, California Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, Resident, Advocacy Ambassador
- Meryl Sundy, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons/University of Washington School of Medicine, Resident, Advocacy Ambassador
- Ariel J Tyring, MD, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons/University of Washington School of Medicine, Resident, Advocacy Ambassador
- Emily Zepeda, MD, Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons/University of Washington School of Medicine, Resident, Advocacy Ambassador

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

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

- Surgical scope fund contributions have been made to counter aggressive scope of practice legislation in numerous states this year.
- Please give to the Surgical Scope Fund.
- Leadership Development nominations are due May 2nd.
- Combined dues mailing program has been activated in 24 states.
- Iowa scope of practice legislation, which included anesthetic and other injections, has been defeated.
- Maryland scope of practice legislation, which included systemic drugs and surgery, stalled this year.
- Nebraska scope of practice legislation, which included injection and lid procedures, was defeated.
- Alaska, California, North Carolina, Florida, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania have active scope of practice expansion threats.
- Eye Drop Refill legislation has passed in OK and TN and is also pending in Minnesota, Texas and Florida.
- Anti-refractive technology legislation was an active part of optometric advocacy, which is opposed to on-line refractions, in Connecticut, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Illinois, Rhode Island, Virginia and Washington.
- See Report in the agenda book for further details.



B. OPHTHPAC Update – Diana Shiba, MD

- OPHTHPAC distributed \$1.1 million in campaign funds in the election year.
- 3600 Academy members give to OPHTHPAC.
- In 2016, 96% of the Council gave OPHTHPAC.
- An effective political action committee has resulted in recent legislative and regulatory victories, such as repeal of SGR, MACRA relief, and clarification of meaningful use.
- There are several openings for key contacts to Congress in the Pacific Coast region.
- See Report in the agenda book for further details.

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

Alaska Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (ASEPS)

- Working with AAO, ASEPS is working to stave off an aggressive optometric scope expansion effort (SB 36/HB 103) that would give optometrists complete board authority to perform surgery and all schedules of controlled substances.
- The state society has coalesced around opposing these scope expansion bills.
- The opioid epidemic, a grave problem in Alaska, is a priority for the Governor.

California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (CAEPS)

- A scope of practice bill that changes certain referral requirements, but does not include surgery, has passed out of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee.
- Senator Ed Hernandez, an optometrist, remains a tactical treat in the Assembly.
- Senator Ed Hernandez has been helpful on other legislation, such as SB 17, a pharma transparency bill.
- SB 17 requires a manufacturer of a prescription drug that is purchased or reimbursed by specified purchasers, including state agencies, health care service plans, health insurers, and pharmacy benefit managers, to notify the purchaser of an increase in the wholesale acquisition cost of a prescription drug.

Hawaii Ophthalmology Society (HOS)

- No optometric expansion legislation was introduced in 2017.
- Hawaii generally follows the lead of California in the optometric scope of practice arena.
- The society will soon be launching an improved website.
- The state society's annual meeting was improved. Grand rounds have been re-implemented.
- The society is suffering from a loss of membership.
- Younger ophthalmologists are not active participants in the state ophthalmological society.



- Kaiser ophthalmologists are not members of the state society.
- The society is seeking to identify residents who are re-locating or returning to Hawaii to join the state society.
- The Department of Education has yet to approve an ophthalmic technician curriculum.

Nevada Academy of Ophthalmology (NAO)

- Anti-refractive technology legislation was opposed by the state society.
- The bill was eventually dropped from consideration by the author.
- The society is seeking volunteers to staff a glaucoma screening booth at the 2017 American Legion Convention in August.
- The society proposed combining with other state societies to hold a state annual meeting.

Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO)

- Oregon considered a resolution to laud IRIS, but decided to not to introduce it in 2017.
- The state society held a successful conference on socio-economic issues
- The eclipse this summer is a major event in the state.
- The Academy's role in public awareness of the eclipse event was discussed.

Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (WAEPS)

- The state society held a successful annual meeting.
- The society has sent three Advocacy Ambassadors to the Mid-Year Forum.
- The society tries to keep its dues below \$1000. Thus, the society does not participate in joint dues billing.
- The state society has 299 members in Washington state.
- Anti-refractive technology legislation, introduced by optometrists, was halted.
- There is an effort to raise business taxes that would impact ophthalmologists, which the state society opposes
- The Academy did a pilot project by twinning CAEPS and WAEPS. The project has fostered better relationships between the society's. WAEPS encourages other societies to undertake similar exchanges.

American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS)

- The society recently held a meeting in Dallas.
- CMS recently announced a new taxonomy code for retina specialists.
- The society is focusing on payers who are not paying for some anti-VEGF drugs.
- The society is concerned about Medicare Payment Advisory Commission proposals that could make it difficult for ophthalmologists to treat patients by pressuring them to use lower priced drugs, but not necessarily the most efficacious one.



- The society has a foundation arm.
- The website contains free patient education pdfs on retinal conditions.
- The society has an on-line retina image database.

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

- Council Resolution 17-05: **Academy Leadership & State Society Membership**. Strong support was voiced for linking state society membership and appointment to Academy leadership positions.
- No other Council Advisory Resolution was discussed.

V. New/Other Business

- A potential CAR was discussed that would call on the Academy to survey Academy Members to gather additional data about the back and neck problems often found amongst ophthalmologists.
- It was stated that there is a course at the annual meeting on this occupational hazard.
- Ideas ranging from charity poker tournaments to a skeet shooting event (like one held recently in Kentucky) were discussed as ideas to raise additional funds for the Surgical Scope Fund.



COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Friday, April 28, 2017

Region: Southeastern

Chair: David Cano, MD (FL)

Staff: Brandi Brooks

I. Welcome 4:00- 4:15

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Stephen J Kelly, MD, Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology, State Councilor
- David B Cano MD, Florida Society of Ophthalmology, State Councilor
- S Anna Kao MD, Georgia Society of Ophthalmology, State Councilor
- J Stuart McCracken MD, North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, State Councilor
- Emilio A Arce-Lopez MD, Puerto Rican Society of Ophthalmology, State Councilor
- Todd D Gwin MD, South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology, State Councilor
- Russell W Read MD PhD, American Uveitis Society, Subspecialty Councilor
- Chasidy D Singleton MD, National Medical Association, Ophthalmology Section, Subspecialty Councilor
- Bradley Dean Fouraker MD, Ocular Microbiology and Immunology Group, Subspecialty Councilor
- Regine S Pappas, MD, Women in Ophthalmology, Subspecialty Councilor
- William B Trattler MD, Cornea Society, Subspecialty Councilor

Guests and Staff

- Christopher Seymour, Executive Director, Florida Society of Ophthalmology
- Alan Skipper, Executive Director, North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Jack Wells MD, OPHTHPAC; South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology
- Mark Ewald, MD, Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology
- Wonsuck Kim, DO, State Affairs
- Timothy Olsen MD, Macula Society; Secretary for Quality
- Stacey Kruger, Florida Society of Ophthalmology
- Thomas Mendel MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Vanderbilt University
- Ronald Milam MD, Advocacy Ambassador, Vanderbilt University
- Matthew Dean Kay MD, Councilor, North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society
- Colleen Filbert, Associate Executive Director, Florida Society of Ophthalmology
- Janet Betchkal, MD, OPHTHPAC
- Jack Wells, MD, OPHTHPAC
- Deborah Kessler Hudeek, MD, MHA, Solo Ophthalmologist, North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Claire Kiernan MD, Advocacy Ambassador, University of Tennessee Memphis
- Jackie Del Valle, Assistant Executive Director, Puerto Rican Society of Ophthalmology
- Vanessa Lopez Beauchamp, Puerto Rican Society of Ophthalmology
- Stephanie Vale MD, Advocacy Ambassador, University of Puerto Rico
- Juan Rafael Arguelles, Executive Director, Puerto Rican Society of Ophthalmology
- Darby Miller MD, Vice President, Florida Society of Ophthalmology
- Philip Rizzuto MD, Secretary, Communication Committee



II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

- A. Secretariat for State Affairs Update – Wonsuck Kim, DO
 - Surgery by Surgeons: we continue fighting scope battles across the country
 - Victories in Iowa and Maryland; Florida appears to be a win
 - Strong social media campaigns helped win in those states
 - State Affairs Secretariat has funds available through the “Quality Eye Care Program for the States” (QECPS); contact your Regional State Affairs member for details
 - OD “Anti-Technology” legislation: Academy remains neutral
 - Leadership Development Program (LDP) nomination forms are due May 2, 2017
 - Requests to participate in the combined dues mailing program are due May 8, 2017
- B. OPHTHPAC Update – Janet Betchkal, MD & Jack Wells, MD
 - 2016 was a successful year for fundraising dollars raised (\$1.5 million), but only 13% of Academy members contributed; everyone is encouraged to donate
 - Won 137 of 155 races that we supported
 - 2016 Victories
 - Glaucoma and retina fee cuts
 - Part B Drug Demonstration
 - Flexibility in MIPS reporting
 - Global surgery data collection
 - SGR
 - EHR MU hardship exception
 - Goal for 2017 is \$2MM and 20% of members contributing; all councilors should give at aao.org/ophthpac
 - Looking for additional advocacy support in North Carolina for Ted Budd and in Tennessee for David Kustoff
 - Robert A. Copeland Jr, M.D. Advocacy Education Fund has been established; goal is \$50K; currently have ~\$20K; give at aao.org/foundation

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

Florida Society of Ophthalmology

- Scope issue defeated: would have granted optometrists extended prescribing privileges; including narcotics as well as surgical privileges to perform scalpel surgery and laser surgery
- Pearls: Use the Academy resources like ads, editorials, etc., and be proactive; Make sure there’s an executive director and a lobbyist ready to go (can’t do this last minute); MDs need to attend all caucus events so they can be aware of what’s coming
- For Eye Care Foundation: looking for additional screening events
- Zika is huge issue; Zika Care Connect at zikacarconnect.org is great new resource

Women in Ophthalmology

- Symposium at American Glaucoma Society meeting in March: Following Your Passion to Leadership, Cynthia Bradford, MD
- Chapters in US, India, Egypt, Canada and Puerto Rico



National Medical Association

- Important to diversify ophth workforce to decrease gaps in care
- Introducing CARs on this topic
- Symposium at AAO 2017 about MACRA

Cornea Society

- Cornea day prior to American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and AAO 2017 Subday
- Entered into collaborative partnership with Asia Cornea Society with cosponsoring of 2020 World Cornea Congress in Singapore; will celebrate 40th anniversary there

South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology

- Pitfall: same people doing the same things each year
- Pearl: “bring a friend” program at offsite retreat increased attendance and get new people involved

Puerto Rican Society of Ophthalmology

- Quiet on scope of practice
- New house and senate started in Jan; have good relationships with new legislators
- Issue: Advantage programs: 70-80% of Medicare population. Privately run companies are working together and changed the fee schedule. Trying to capitate ophth. Restricting new contracts to new ophthalmologists. Some new MDs have been waiting more than a year to get contract. Academy needs to be aware of this and look into it.

North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society

- Patient portal integrated into Neuro-ophthalmology Virtual Education Library (NOVEL)
- Research committee is doing trials with Nordic

Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology

- No scope issues this year
- Working to increase membership (only about 50% penetration now)
- Combined billing has helped a bit

Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology

- No scope issues this year
- Optometrist asked to open a laser surgery center (claimed area was underserved area, but it's not)

American Uveitis Society

- 2016 subday was successful with new case-based format
- New named memorial lectures for Ron Smith and Bob Nussenblatt

Ocular Microbiology and Immunology Group

- Symposia at AAO 2017: “Hot Topics for Minimizing Infections in Cataract Surgery”
- New drug delivery devices in the pipeline
- Compounding is the big issue right now

Georgia Society of Ophthalmology

- Presenting tomorrow morning
- Doing great job with YOs: two meetings during the year have YO programs
- Also started a technicians program with 150 attendees

North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Issues with Blue Cross Blue Shield and aggressive optometry bill
- Pearl: Build personal relations now so you have them in place when you need them



- Membership has increased significantly

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

17-01 Prevention of Pediatric Ocular Pellet Injuries

- No comments

17-02 Collaboration between VHA and Academic Ophthalmology

- No comments

17-03 Promoting Advocacy Among Residencies Through Competition

- No comments

17-04 Tracking the Effects of Advocacy Programs

- No comments

17-05 Academy Leadership & State Society Membership

- Great idea, but hard to enforce
- Some state societies are strong, but some are not

17-06 Eligibility Criteria for Organization Representation in Council

- NMA supports this
- Suggest it be written that 85% of your US ophthalmologist members need to be members of AAO

17-07 Facilitation of Human Eye Donation for Research

- No comments

17-08 The American Academy of Ophthalmic Associates

- No comments

17-09 Integrating Advocacy into Maintenance of Certification

- Goal should be to simplify MOC process; this would just make it more complex

17-10 Lifetime Certification: Time to Reconsider

- No comments

17-11 Assuring Certified Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant's Access

- This is a big problem
- Agree with the response

17-12 Student Athlete Eye Protection

- This is an excellent idea

17-13 Creating Strategies to Increase AAO Member Engagement in Eliminating Eye Care Disparities

- Agree this is important

V. New/Other Business

- None

Adjourned at 6:05



AMERICAN ACADEMY™
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

COUNCIL REGIONAL MEETINGS Friday, April 28, 2017

Region: Tornado Belt

Chair: Amalia Miranda, MD

Staff: Brendan Marr

I. Welcome

Councilors and Alternate Councilors

- Amalia Miranda, MD, Councilor, Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
- Galen Kemp, MD, Councilor, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Aaron Miller, MD, Councilor, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Sidney Gicheru, MD, Councilor, Texas Ophthalmological Association; OPHTHPAC Committee; Regional representative, Secretariat for State Affairs
- Thomas Moseley, MD, Councilor, Arkansas Ophthalmological Society
- George Ellis, Jr., MD, Councilor, Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Debra Shetlar, MD, Councilor, American Board of Ophthalmology

Guests and Staff

- Cindy Bradford, MD, President, American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Jane Edmund, MD, Board of Directors, Academy Foundation
- Kurt Heitman, MD, Secretary for State Affairs
- Rob Melendez, MD, Secretary for Continuing Education
- Brad Black, MD, Past President, Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Victor Gonzalez, MD, President, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Mark Mazow, MD, Texas Ophthalmological Association
- Angela Verkade, MD, Resident, Baylor University
- ILLEGIBLE NAME, Louisiana State University
- Josh Hendrix, MD, Resident, Dean McGee Eye Institute
- Andrew Melson, MD, Resident, Dean McGee Eye Institute
- Rachael Reed, Executive Director, Texas Ophthalmological Association and Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
- Laura Hawkins, Executive Director, Arkansas Ophthalmological Society

II. Academy Updates/Requests for Information

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

- State ophthalmological societies and the Academy's Secretariat for State Affairs, with critical support from SSF, have secured two patient victories in Iowa and Maryland.
- Current battles are ongoing in Alaska, Massachusetts, and Nebraska
- Battles in North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia were discussed in council state section meeting.
- Pending OD surgery legislation in California and Pennsylvania.



- State legislative campaigns to derail optometric surgery initiatives are costing an unprecedented amount of financial resources.
 - Urgent plea for Council members to make at least \$500 donation to the Surgical Scope Fund
- Optometric therapeutic prescription expansion legislation introduced in New York and Texas
- State Proactive initiatives funded by *Quality Eye Care Program for the States* (QECPS)
- Proactive early eye drop legislation
 - Enacted in Oklahoma and Tennessee
 - Also introduced in Minnesota, Florida, and Texas
- Optometric anti-technology to prohibit physicians from utilizing refraction telemedicine technology has been introduced in Connecticut, Illinois, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Washington
- Leadership Development Program Class XIX participated in congressional advocacy day and held special session featuring U.S. rep. Sinema from Arizona.
- Nominees for Class XX are currently being solicited, sue may 18th, 2017.
- Societies wishing to participate in combined dues mailing must submit program agreement by May 8, 2017
- New Executive Directors have been brought on board in Massachusetts and Rhode Island

B. OPHTHPAC Update – *Sidney Gicheru, MD*

- OTHPAC was involved in 115 races during the 2016 election cycle
- 96% of Council participated in OPHTHPAC
- Only 14% of all Academy members contribute to OPHTHPAC
- FDA issued revised guidelines in January on compounded/repackaged drugs,

III. Review of Semi-Annual Reports Submitted by Councilors

Arkansas Ophthalmological Society

- No optometric scope legislation this session. The medical community is following an Advanced Nurse Practitioners bill
- They hosted a code quest with ophthalmological societies in Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma
- Current legislative rules make it difficult for optometrists to file scope expansion legislation
 - No “shell” bills are allowed
- Optometrists tried to propose that the state fund a school, of optometry. A state feasibility study determined it would be too costly



Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- Received 2016 grant from the Academy for early eye drop refill legislation which passed and was signed into law
- Currently working on re-building society infrastructure, including hiring a new executive director.
- One former resident and one medical student are attending Mid-Year Forum

Mississippi Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

- No relevant bills introduced in this year's legislative session
- Ophthalmology's state PAC is heavily supporting:
 - The Mississippi House Speaker
 - Chair of the House Health Committee
 - Lt. Governor

Texas Ophthalmological Association

- The society (TOA) sponsored eight Advocacy Ambassadors
- The society's past president Dawn Buckingham, MD has been elected to the State Senate
- Optometry is seeking expansion of glaucoma authority in 2018.
- Texas legislative sessions occur every other year. There will be no legislative session in 2018.
- TOA sponsored a codequest seminar. Such activities help retain membership

IV. Review of CARs Submitted

CAR 17-01

- No comments

CAR 17-02

- No comments

CAR 17-03

- No comments

CAR 17-04

- No comments

CAR 17-05

- Observations were made that the Academy's 94% participant rate was attributed to perceived value
- It was suggested that perceived value could be a problem for individual state societies with a relatively small membership rate.

CAR 17-06

- It was suggested that the Academy may want to at least revisit the criteria for holding a council seat

CAR 17-07

- No comments



CAR 17-08

- No comments

CAR 17-09 and CAR 17-10

- Observations were made that maintenance of certification has been a very controversial issue across the board for ophthalmology

CAR 17-11

- Some members would like to find a way to certify surgical assistants so it would be easier for them to be credentialed by hospitals and surgery centers.

CAR 17-12

- No comments

CAR 17-12

- No comments

V. New/Other Business

- Introduction of Advocacy Ambassadors present at the regional meeting.
- No further new business