

DRY EYELAND™

# Journey to a world

WHERE A LOSS OF TEAR FILM  
HOMEOSTASIS LEADS TO DRY EYE<sup>1</sup>



When it comes to dry eye disease and the loss of tear film homeostasis, there's a broader integrated system that needs exploring. We call it Dry Eyeland.<sup>2,3</sup>

**Come travel this anatomical landscape, where:**

- Loss of tear film homeostasis is the unifying characteristic of all dry eye<sup>1</sup>
- The parasympathetic nervous system plays a major role in tear film homeostasis<sup>2</sup>
- The lacrimal functional unit (LFU) is far more than just the lacrimal gland<sup>3</sup>

**Allow us to be your guide to dry eye—visit [DryEyeland.com](http://DryEyeland.com) to see the sights.  
Because a whole world awaits beyond the ocular surface.**



**References:** 1. Craig JP, Nelson JD, Azar DT, et al. *Ocul Surf.* 2017;15(4):802-812. 2. Efron N, Jones L, Bron AJ, et al. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.* 2013;54(11):TFOS98-TFOS122. 3. *Ocul Surf.* 2007;5(2):75-92.

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# Destination AAO 2021

GET READY FOR NEW ORLEANS • PART 1 OF 6

## INTRODUCING AAO 2021

### The Annual Meeting Returns With New Features

Based on valuable member feedback, the Academy has implemented the following new features to AAO 2021:

- **A compact Friday–Monday schedule.** Spend less time away from your practice.
- **Fewer overlapping sessions.** With synchronized starting times, you can more easily plan your schedule.
- **Expanded virtual content.** Earn CME credits even after the meeting.
- **Dynamic exhibit hall.** Enjoy designated spaces for networking.
- **Easier instruction course access.** To ease meeting navigation and to offer more educational content to every attendee, the old instruction course pass has been replaced with a modest registration fee for AAO 2021. The early registration fee for Academy and AAOE members, including retired and life members, is \$200. Fees increase closer to the meeting dates. Registration for AAO 2021 excludes Subspecialty Day in-person and virtual content.

## REGISTRATION

### Register for AAO 2021

Meeting registration opens on June 16 if you are a member of the Academy



**NEW ORLEANS.** AAO 2021 will take place Nov. 12-15 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

or the American Academy of Ophthalmic Executives (AAOE) and July 7 for everybody else. When you register for the live meeting in New Orleans you get these benefits:

- Academy and AAOE instruction courses;
- clinical sessions and original papers;
- Skills Transfer lectures;
- videos and posters;
- Expo;
- Industry Showcases;
- AAO 2021 Virtual annual meeting content; and
- the opportunity to earn CME credits.

**Find registration information at [aao.org/registration](http://aao.org/registration).**

### Reserve Your Hotel Room

Hotel reservations open on June 16 for Academy or AAOE members and July 7 for everyone else. Group reservations for international attendees are also available.

**Avoid scams.** Be sure to book only through the Academy's website or through AAO 2021's official hotel

reservation provider, Expovision, at [aaohotels@expovision.com](mailto:aaohotels@expovision.com), or call toll-free from within the United States at 866-774-0487.

### Can't Join in Person? Register for the Virtual Meeting

You can register for AAO 2021 Virtual and get these benefits:

- annual meeting sessions, including highlights that are streamed live and available later to view on demand;
- annual meeting on-demand-only content;
- videos and posters;
- access to the Virtual Expo; and
- the opportunity to earn CME credits.

You can also register for the Subspecialty Day virtual meeting by day: Friday, Saturday, or both. Registration includes:

- content from all Subspecialty Day sessions on that day, streamed live from New Orleans and available later on demand;
- detailed course syllabi online;
- access to the Virtual Expo; and
- the opportunity to earn CME credits.



AMERICAN ACADEMY  
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY®

## PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

### Preview the 2021 Jackson Memorial Lecture

Russell N. Van Gelder, MD, PhD, will present the Jackson Memorial Lecture, titled “Molecular Diagnostics for Ocular Infectious Diseases,” at Friday’s Opening Session of AAO 2021. Dr. Van Gelder, chair of ophthalmology and Boyd K. Bucey Professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, will review the evolution of today’s diagnostics and preview a testing technology in development that, he predicted, “will be a game-changer” for ophthalmologists in all subspecialties.

#### From the 19th century to today.

“Infectious disease in the eye is one of the few threads that ties all ophthalmologists together, whether in cornea, neuro-ophthalmology, plastics, or pediatrics,” he said. “But infectious disease diagnosis got stuck in the 19th century for a long time, employing many of the same techniques that Robert Koch or Louis Pasteur would have used—placing specimens on plates and looking under a microscope.

“Because current diagnostic methods can be slow—and the speed with which infectious disease can blind is so fast,” Dr. Van Gelder said, “our approach is often to ‘shoot first and ask questions later.’ That is, if a patient walks in the office with a corneal ulcer or endophthalmitis, we basically throw the most powerful antibiotics on the planet at them, and then try to figure out what they have to pare down the therapy after it’s already started.”

**The promise of molecular diagnostics.** However, recent advances in molecular diagnostics could make this approach a thing of the past. Dr. Van Gelder will summarize the evolution of these techniques and will share “some of the surprises we’ve found along the way regarding what organisms are found in or on the eye associated with disease processes.”

Looking ahead, he foresees a rapid diagnostic process in which “we can take a corneal scraping or a vitreous tap right there in the office, put it on a little machine, and determine the causative organisms during the appointment.”

According to Dr. Van Gelder, such point-of-care testing may be in the clinic sooner than we imagine. His group is developing just such a device: “It’s basically a DNA sequencer the size of a USB dongle that’s capable of generating 2 billion base pairs of DNA a day in sequence, and it sequences fast enough that we think we can identify the infections in a sample within minutes in the clinic. And I do think the technology is just about feasible right now.

“What we’re doing is at the cutting edge for any infectious disease, not just ocular disease, and I look forward to sharing this with the members.”

### Search the Program

Program Search is an online tool to find course information and abstracts. It allows you to look up information by day, topic, special interest, or presenter. Starting June 16, you may log in on the search page to add items to your calendar.

Learn more at [aao.org/program-search](http://aao.org/program-search).

### Attend a Skills Transfer Lab

Work on and perfect your technique in a Skills Transfer lab in New Orleans. It is strongly recommended that you attend the didactic lecture associated with the Skills Transfer lab. All didactic lectures are included with your in-person registration.

**Purchase** a separate lab ticket when registering for AAO 2021.

### Celebrate Together at the 2021 Orbital Gala Masquerade

Join the pageantry and reconnect with your colleagues at the 18th annual Orbital Gala fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 14, at the House of Blues in New Orleans. Swap stories at the cocktail party and bid on one-of-a-kind auction treasures to support the Academy’s vital educational programs. You will also have the opportunity to celebrate David J. Noonan, former Academy deputy executive vice president, for his numerous contributions to ophthalmology. Can’t attend? Join us virtually.

Learn more at [aao.org/gala](http://aao.org/gala) and register starting on June 17.

## SUBSPECIALTY DAY

### Subspecialty Day 2021 in New Orleans

Subspecialty Day features world-renowned ophthalmologists presenting the latest developments within their subspecialties.

#### The following meetings take place on Friday, Nov. 12:

- Glaucoma Subspecialty Day 2021: Making Glaucoma Care the Big Easy
- Neuro-Ophthalmology Subspecialty Day 2021: Common Concerns, Uncommon Problems: Clues to Finding the Hidden Dangers!
- Pediatric Ophthalmology Subspecialty Day 2021: Unmasking Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus by Rethinking, Recreating, and Reimagining
- Ocular Oncology and Pathology Subspecialty Day 2021: Evolving Paradigms in the Practice of Ocular Oncology and Pathology
- Refractive Surgery Subspecialty Day 2021: How Can We Do Better?
- Retina Subspecialty Day 2021 (Day 1): Emerging Even Stronger

#### The following meetings take place on Saturday, Nov. 13:

- Cornea Subspecialty Day 2021: A Clear Vision for the New Decade
- Oculofacial Plastic Surgery Subspecialty Day 2021: Face Forward
- Retina Subspecialty Day 2021 (Day 2): Emerging Even Stronger

When you register for a live Subspecialty Day meeting in New Orleans, you get these benefits for the day you are registered:

- flexibility to float among the live Subspecialty Day meetings taking place on the same day, as well as access to virtual Subspecialty Day content for those meetings;
- detailed electronic course syllabi for all Subspecialty Day meetings available online;
- continental breakfast and lunch;
- the opportunity to earn CME credits; and
- for Saturday registrants, access to the Expo and the new Industry Showcase theaters.

**Find Subspecialty Day program information** at [aao.org/annual-meeting/subspecialty-day](http://aao.org/annual-meeting/subspecialty-day).