



Spring Council Meeting Council Advisory Recommendation (CAR) Hearing Report April 13, 2019

19-01: Recommendation on Maximum Brightness of New Headlights

SUBMITTED BY: American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology

PROBLEM STATEMENT: With the proliferation of halogen, xenon, and even newer forms of headlights on automobiles, there has been an overwhelming increase in patient complaints with how these lights affect their night driving. When these newer and brighter lights shine into the oncoming driver's eyes, they complain of difficulty seeing the road in front of them, which is both a driving and public safety hazard.

DID THE ACADEMY'S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	75%
No	23%
Abstain	2%

REFER TO BOT: YES

Yes	65%
No	35%
Abstain	0%

PRIORITY: MEDIUM

Low	34%
Medium	51%
High	13%
Abstain	2%

Comments from the CAR Hearing:

-Agree this can be visually disabling. If we don't take this on, who will? Encourage support of the CAR with a high priority.

-A research body is already looking into this along with the auto industry. Maybe this shouldn't be a high priority since this is already being investigated.

BOT Referred to:

David B. Glasser, MD – Secretary for Federal Affairs
Status Report – due for June 2019 Board of Trustees meeting

19-02: Transparency in IOL Power Variability

SUBMITTED BY: Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology

PROBLEM STATEMENT: IOL labeling does not include information about the tolerance or standard deviation of the diopter power.

DID THE ACADEMY’S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	91%
No	6%
Abstain	3%

REFER TO BOT: YES

Yes	89%
No	8%
Abstain	3%

PRIORITY: HIGH

Low	12%
Medium	30%
High	58%
Abstain	0%

Comments from the CAR Hearing:

None

BOT Referred to:

David B. Glasser, MD – Secretary for Federal Affairs, Michael X Repka, MD, MBA – Medical Director for Government Affairs

Status Report – due for June 2019 Board of Trustees meeting

19-03: AOP Apprenticeship Training - Workforce Shortage Solution

SUBMITTED BY: International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

PROBLEM STATEMENT: Ophthalmologists worldwide report a workforce shortage and challenges in the recruitment, hiring, and retention of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP). To provide quality eye care for an increasing global population, ophthalmologists will need to see more patients more efficiently and delegating appropriate tasks to qualified assistants will be critical.

DID THE ACADEMY’S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	92%
No	7%
Abstain	1%

REFER TO BOT: YES

Yes	91%
No	8%
Abstain	1%

PRIORITY: HIGH

Low	14%
Medium	37%
High	49%
Abstain	0%

Comments from the CAR Hearing:

-OOSS University is working with IJCHAPO to form a certification process for allied help in the ASC setting. Suggest there may be ways to coordinate those efforts between the Academy and the OOSS University.

-Question posed: How does this differ from the process already in place for COA, COT and COMT?
Reply: That refers to certification, but this is for formal education-potentially leading to certification.

BOT Referred to:

Christopher J. Rapuano, MD – Senior Secretary for Clinical Education; Robert E. Wiggins, MD, MHA – Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice
Status Report – due for June 2019 Board of Trustees meeting

19-04: Vision and Driving Fitness: A Matter of Public Safety

SUBMITTED BY: Virginia society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

AAO members frequently feel adrift when faced with counseling patients having impaired vision who are still driving. A similar challenge arises when loved ones of individuals with impaired vision ask for an AAO member to intervene as the respected authority to recommend surrendering their license to drive. Upon review, it appears that the AAO does not have either a clear position statement or guidance documents directly addressing vision and driving fitness for members to rely upon.

DID THE ACADEMY'S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	93%
No	5%
Abstain	2%

REFER TO BOT: YES

Yes	87%
No	10%
Abstain	3%

PRIORITY: HIGH

Low	9%
Medium	20%
High	69%
Abstain	2%

Comments from the CAR Hearing:

- Concerned about taking on a legal role with our patients. We have a very sacred relationship. We need to be careful how we do this to avoid ramifications for having to report patients that do not qualify for driving. This is not something we do on a daily basis.
- Issue discussed in regional meeting and consensus is we need guidelines to point to when having to make this recommendation.
- As stated earlier today, if not us, who? It's a difficult discussion to have and it would nice to refer to a collective source of science. This also could be a white-hat issue that we develop with optometry to keep patient safety our focus.
- Nevada state law mandates this reporting, but many physicians are not even aware of this requirement. This is a huge issue.
- Reminder not to lose perspective-this is not only an aging issue.

BOT Referred to:

Kurt F. Heitman, MD – Secretary for State Affairs; Dianna L. Seldomridge, MD, MBA – Secretary for Communications
Status Report – due for June 2019 Board of Trustees meeting

19-05: Transition of Care for Pediatric Patients

SUBMITTED BY: American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Ophthalmology

PROBLEM STATEMENT: Many pediatric ophthalmologists care for children with complex ocular disorders. Guidelines for appropriate transition of care for older children with chronic disorders from pediatric to adult care should be developed

DID THE ACADEMY'S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	89%
No	11%
Abstain	0%

REFER TO BOT: YES

Yes	84%
No	14%
Abstain	2%

PRIORITY: HIGH

Low	17%
Medium	38%
High	45%
Abstain	0%

Comments from the CAR Hearing:

-This is a big issue, especially considering that many of these adults have special needs. It's very difficult for them to find someone to take them on. This is a high priority and not confident that the recommendation is enough. This needs more discussion.

-Applaud CAR and goal. The Academy is in a prime position to work with pediatrics and subspecialty provider organizations to develop these guidelines.

-Strongly support the CAR, it's absolutely necessary.

BOT Referred to:

Timothy W. Olsen, MD – Secretary for Quality of Care
Status Report – due for June 2019 Board of Trustees meeting

19-06: Cybersecurity CME as an AAO Member Benefit

SUBMITTED BY: Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

PROBLEM STATEMENT: The federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HIPAA/HITECH) and corresponding state laws require all physicians to employ “reasonable” cybersecurity measures to protect personal health information (PHI). Many ophthalmologists use internet connected diagnostics and EHRs daily, and a poor understanding of cybersecurity can leave us vulnerable to data breaches.

DID THE ACADEMY’S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	100%
No	0%
Abstain	0%

REFER TO BOT: YES

Yes	89%
No	11%
Abstain	0%

PRIORITY: HIGH

Low	10%
Medium	37%
High	52%
Abstain	1 %

Comments from the CAR Hearing:

- Issue is not specific to ophthalmology. The groundwork is done, don’t re-create the wheel.
- Suggestion to investigate resources with OMIC, may already be available.
- Dr. Rapuano confirmed that they had already discussed this matter with OMIC, and they will be collaborating.

BOT Referred to:

Christopher J. Rapuano, MD – Senior Secretary for Clinical Education
Status Report – due for June 2019 Board of Trustees meeting

19-07: Simplifying Recruitment Using “Potential Member Report” Data

SUBMITTED BY: California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) seeks to assist state societies with recruitment by providing “Potential Member Reports” on a regular basis. However, the information is sent by US Mail and only in hard copy, requiring manual entry of many names and addresses for any potential word processing use.

DID THE ACADEMY’S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	100%
No	0%
Abstain	0%

REFER TO BOT: NO

Yes	8%
No	80%
Abstain	12%

PRIORITY: N/A

Low	29%
Medium	2%
High	18%
Abstain	51%

Comments from the CAR Hearing:

- Academy thanked for implementing the change
- Question posed: How do we vote on the CAR as the matter has already been implemented?
- Councilors were advised that if they feel the matter is resolved it is not necessary to refer to the BOT.

BOT Referred to:

Not referred to the BOT as the Academy’s Ophthalmic Society Relations (OSR) department has already implemented this CAR.

19-08: Analysis of Private Equity Acquisitions and the Commoditization of Ophthalmology

SUBMITTED BY: Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

PROBLEM STATEMENT: Honoring our profession requires protecting the stability of ophthalmology practices and advocating for patient safety. The current rapid consolidation and transformation of ophthalmology by private equity is disruptive, with complex conflicts of interest that threaten the future and honor of our profession, the mission of the Academy, and patient safety. This demands urgent analysis and action.

DID THE ACADEMY'S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	78%
No	22%
Abstain	0%

REFER TO BOT: YES

Yes	70%
No	30%
Abstain	0%

PRIORITY: HIGH

Low	17%
Medium	20%
High	60%
Abstain	3%

Comments from the CAR Hearing:

-Appreciation for the Academy's response. Big impact to smaller towns and rural communities when a corporation comes in with fancy equipment and lots of marketing. Similar to the deregulation with banking. They can't compete. Someone needs to look at this on a national level. That's where the Academy can help.

-Applaud the Academy for a great educational program on this yesterday. But this should be an individual decision. Stated that only 10% of ophthalmology is impacted. The Academy should remain focused on the education element.

-Seeing this move quickly through our community. Also concerned about the negative impact on young ophthalmologists. Fear the Walmart effect.

-Appreciation expressed to Academy Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice Bob Wiggins, MD for vast knowledge of this matter. Concerned that the response does not support the use of the IRIS Registry to obtain and track more data.

BOT Referred to:

Robert E. Wiggins, MD, MHA – Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice
Status Report – due for June 2019 Board of Trustees meeting

19-09: Speaker Disclosure in AAO Educational Presentations

SUBMITTED BY: Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The AAO advocacy effort depends on its membership activity in State Ophthalmologic Societies and financial support, in part, through member contributions to AAO funds such as OphthPAC and Surgical Scope Fund.

The message is clear that our advocacy mission is to protect patient surgical safety and preserve surgical standards. Yet, despite this mission, advocacy contributions to OphthPAC continue to show a majority of only single-digit percentage participation when analyzed by state. When balanced against the constant efforts of the AAO staff and advocacy leaders inspiring members to make financial contributions, the assessment is demoralizing.

At every educational meeting, our AAO physician speakers influence the thought and actions of the audience. They demonstrate who has supported them through the financial disclosure attestation, but do not disclose if they support their own state ophthalmological society or the mission of patient surgical safety and surgical standards. Our educational leaders are missing an opportunity to help the patients that we serve.

We feel that AAO Meeting participants could be inspired to participate by seeing our respected speakers' disclosures of their support for their state societies through membership attestation and patient surgical safety by way of advocacy donations.

DID THE ACADEMY'S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	92%
No	8%
Abstain	0%

REFER TO BOT: NO

Yes	25%
No	74%
Abstain	1%

PRIORITY: LOW

Low	45%
Medium	9%
High	8%
Abstain	38%

Comments from the CAR Hearing:

- Concerned that the disclosure requirement may make it more difficult to get donations.
- Don't think this precludes any of us from revealing our advocacy efforts in talks we make.
- Suggestion made to identify donors differently, possibly a sticker on the badge. Too many ribbons to make this stand out.
- Response from Dr. Seldomridge: We do this via the ribbons but we are open to other suggestions.
- These disclosures are not relevant to the academic presentations. This could have a chilling effect. Do support showing this voluntarily.

BOT Referred to:

Not referred to the BOT.

19-10: State Membership for AAO Leaders and Advocacy Ambassadors

SUBMITTED BY: California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

While the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) is very supportive of membership in state societies, despite that fact significant numbers of AAO Leaders (Committee Members, etc.) and past AAO Advocacy Ambassadors are not members of their respective state societies.

DID THE ACADEMY'S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	93%
No	7%
Abstain	0%

REFER TO BOT: YES

Yes	63%
No	35%
Abstain	3%

PRIORITY: HIGH

Low	33%
Medium	32%
High	35%
Abstain	0%

Comments from the CAR Hearing:

-My role as the Residency Program Director mandates that we teach them about advocacy. I thank the state societies for helping the residents attend this program via the Academy's Advocacy Ambassador Program. The New York State Ophthalmological Society sends 10 residents every year. Suggest the state societies build strong relationships with academic institutions-encourage state membership. Build relationships with academic institutions (such as going to their grand round.) Albert Khouri's Leadership Development Program project was to create a course about the role of advocacy in the profession of ophthalmology, which is available to program directors and Academy members

<https://www.aao.org/resident-course/resident-advocacy> Urge state societies to use that to education and expand our definition of what it means to be a successful program.

-Though I'm here as a subspecialty section member, it seems to me that it would be wrong for me to be here if I wasn't also a member of my state society (though I am.)

-Question posed: Is this issue pushed during the Advocacy Ambassador Program sessions?

-Reply from Kurt Heitman: It's absolutely included

-Support and identified positive outcomes of the Advocacy Ambassador Program were presented

-The CAR presenter reiterated that the CAR is simply an administrative ask for the names and contact information for some Ambassador superstars who could play an important role in reaching out to Advocacy Ambassador participants who have not yet joined their state society.

BOT Referred to:

Kurt F. Heitman, MD – Secretary for State Affairs

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