

# Destination AAO 2014

GET READY FOR CHICAGO: PART 2

## SKILLS TRANSFER

### ■ Spotlight on This Year's 58 Skills Transfer Courses

Thomas W. Samuelson, MD, associate secretary of the Skills Transfer Advisory Committee, discusses the importance of mastering new techniques in ophthalmology, and which Skills Transfer courses appeal to him the most for AAO 2014.

*Q. How have the courses evolved?*

The course offerings are continuously updated. For example, this year we are adding a crosslinking course as well as a femtosecond cataract surgery course. These are cutting-edge topics that allow Academy members to experience new technology and decide whether or not to get involved further in their own practice setting. The Academy's Skills Transfer labs offer this exposure in an unbiased environment, which most attendees greatly appreciate.

*Q. What is new this year?*

Successful transfer of the skills necessary for common ophthalmic procedures remains an important goal of the annual meeting. With the popularity of the Academy Plus pass for instruction courses, Skills Transfer courses have likewise had to step up to compete for the time and attention of meeting attendees. Two changes have been implemented to accomplish this.

First, to make courses more time efficient, the didactic lectures associated with labs, while still recommended, are no longer prerequisites.

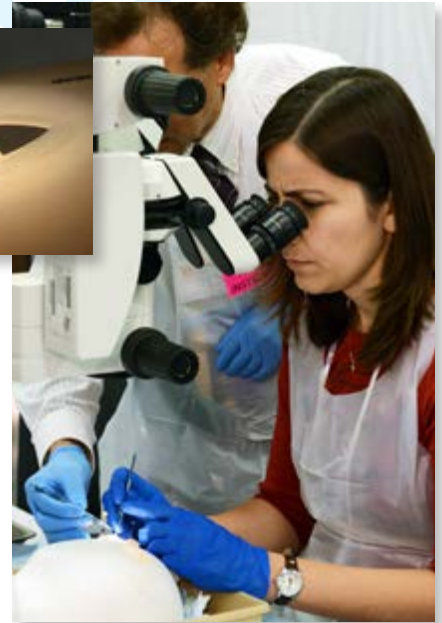
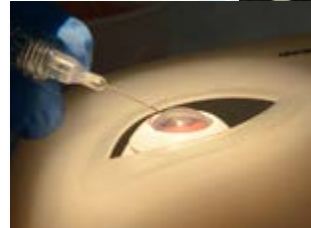
Second, Skills Transfer ticket prices have been reduced, and residents continue to receive a 50 percent discount on published prices.

*Q. If you could take only one course, which would it be and why?*

Personally, I would take one of the vitrectomy for the anterior segment surgeon courses. The newer small-gauge pars plana vitrectomy options for removing vitreous are appealing, and a more posterior removal of vitreous is generally more strategic than removing vitreous from an anterior approach. The smaller-gauge vitrectomy options are attractive for anterior segment surgeons, especially those who perform IOL exchanges, sutured IOLs, and pars plana tube placements.

*Q. What makes the Skills Transfer program unique?*

I believe the volunteer faculty of specialists in the various ophthalmic disciplines is the most distinctive feature of the program. The opportunity to spend one-on-one time with



**DR. SAMUELSON'S TAKE.** Skills Transfer labs provide an unbiased atmosphere for learning new surgeries.

a leader in a particular field, learning surgical pearls, and discussing surgical strategy is priceless. Relationships are created that extend beyond the course, providing a resource for future consultation and instruction.

## BEAT THE CLOCK

### ■ Starting June 25—Register, Buy Tickets, Reserve Housing

June 25 is the first day that Academy and AAOE members can register for AAO 2014 (registration is free for Academy and AAOE members) and

Subspecialty Day, buy event tickets as well as the Academy Plus course pass, and book a hotel room. Nonmembers must wait until July 9.

**Register by Aug. 6 to save money.** If you are registering for a Subspecialty Day meeting, buying an Academy Plus course pass, or registering for the

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**AAO 2014**  
In conjunction with SOE  
October 18-21

meeting as a nonmember, your fees will increase after the Aug. 6 deadline.

It is quickest to register online at [www.aao.org/registration](http://www.aao.org/registration).

If you are not a member, visit [www.aao.org/member](http://www.aao.org/member) to join the Academy or [www.aao.org/joinaaoe](http://www.aao.org/joinaaoe) to join AAOE.

**Buy an Academy Plus Course Pass for Flexible Scheduling**

Access all Academy and AAOE instruction courses with one pass. With Academy Plus, you don't need to plan ahead—you have the freedom to try as many courses as you want.

How do you buy the Academy Plus course pass? Purchase it when you register for the meeting. It costs \$175 until Aug. 6, \$225 until Sept. 24, and \$275 onsite.

You still need tickets for certain events. While there are no individual tickets for Academy and AAOE instruction courses, you will need to buy tickets for the following:

- AAOE Saturday Program
- AAOE coding sessions
- Breakfast With the Experts
- Skills Transfer labs
- Subspecialty Day meetings
- Ticketed special events
- Tours

For more information, visit [www.aao.org/pass](http://www.aao.org/pass).

**PROGRAM**

**Go Online to Preview This Year's Scientific Program**

Access information about courses, including abstracts, via the online Program Search at [www.aao.org/programsearch](http://www.aao.org/programsearch). You can look up information by presenter, keyword, or event number. You also can search the program by topic (e.g., "Cataract"), event type (e.g., "Symposia"), or special interest (e.g., "Endorsed by the Young Ophthalmologist Committee").

**Saturday Programming**

This year will see an even more robust lineup of programs on Saturday, Oct. 18. Be sure to check out the latest de-



**RAISE A GLASS.** Have a cocktail, indulge in culinary delights, get great deals on silent auction items, and dance to live music at the Orbital Gala.

**Orbital Gala Tickets on Sale**

Be sure to attend the Orbital Gala on Sunday, Oct. 19, at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel—one of Chicago's most exclusive venues. This year's theme is "The Roaring '20s," when speak-easies, jazz, and gangsters ruled. Event proceeds benefit the Academy's educational, quality of care research, and service programs.

To purchase tickets for the gala, visit [www.faaao.org](http://www.faaao.org).

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE AAO 2014 TOUR PROGRAM.**

From Friday, Oct. 17, through Tuesday, Oct. 21, the Academy will host a wide range of tours, open to all AAO 2014 registrants, their spouses, and guests.



**Chicago Highlights**

Visit your favorite spots and discover what's new in this ever-changing city.

**Catch a football game.**

The famous Chicago Bears are a Chicago institution. Root for them in the renovated Soldier Field stadium.

**Home of the blues.** Visit Willie Dixon's Blues Heaven Foundation, located at the historic Chess Studios. See where, from 1957 to 1967, legendary blues and rock musicians like Muddy Waters, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Etta James and Aretha Franklin recorded.

**Take in the views.** Enjoy stunning vistas of the city and far beyond from the John Hancock Observatory or the Willis Tower Skydeck.

**Food lover's paradise.** Chicago is home to many famous and exclusive restaurants with myriad cuisines. It can be difficult to get reservations, so plan ahead and book early.

**Academy Café session on the new Intelligent Research in Sight (IRIS) Registry.**

- Academy Café session on cataract.
- Global Outreach Symposium: Low Vision Rehabilitation and New Technologies for the Developing World.
- Senior Ophthalmologist (SO) session titled Brain Health and Longevity for SOs in the Digital Age.
- SO session titled Use Blogging and Social Networking to Super Charge Your Website and Internet Marketing.

velopments in diagnosis, treatments, and procedures by world-renowned ophthalmologists in disciplines ranging from cornea to retina.

- International Congress of Ophthalmology: Conference for Ophthalmic Educators. This symposium is cosponsored with SOE and discusses teaching techniques that improve effectiveness. (No charge).
- Two Saturday AAOE coding sessions—registration and fee required.
- AAOE programs.

# Official AAO 2014 Hotels

**JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES IN CHICAGO.** There are 61 official Academy hotels for Subspecialty Day (Oct. 17-18) and AAO 2014 (Oct. 18-21).

**WHEN TO BOOK YOUR HOTEL.** Registration for housing opens on June 25 for Academy and AAOE members; on July 9 for nonmembers.

**BOOK A ROOM ONLINE.** Visit [www.aao.org/hotels](http://www.aao.org/hotels) to find a link

for hotel reservations and to find out about hotel amenities and availability.

**BOOK A ROOM BY PHONE.** Agents at Expovision, the Academy's official housing company, can assist you from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT. Phone 866-774-0487 (toll-free from the United States and Canada) or 703-770-3908 (from elsewhere).

- 1 ACME Hotel Company  
15 E. Ohio St.
- 2 Avenae Crowne Plaza Chicago  
160 E. Huron St.
- 3 Best Western Grant Park  
1100 S. Michigan Ave.
- 4 Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile  
540 N. Michigan Ave.
- 5 Chicago's Essex Inn  
800 S. Michigan Ave.
- 6 Conrad Chicago  
521 N. Rush St.
- 7 Courtyard Chicago Magnificent Mile  
165 E. Ontario St.
- 8 Courtyard Chicago River North  
30 E. Hubbard St.
- 9 dana hotel & spa  
680 N. State St.
- 10 Doubletree Hotel Chicago Magnificent Mile  
300 E. Ohio St.
- 11 Drake Hotel  
140 E. Walton Pl.
- 12 Embassy Suites Chicago Downtown  
600 N. State St.
- 13 Embassy Suites Chicago Lakewood  
511 N. Columbus Dr.
- 14 Fairfield Inn & Suites Chicago Magnificent Mile  
216 E. Ontario St.
- 15 Fairmont Chicago, Millennium Park  
200 N. Columbus Dr.
- 16 Four Points by Sheraton Chicago Magnificent Mile  
630 N. Rush St.
- 17 Four Seasons Hotel Chicago  
120 E. Delaware Pl.
- 18 Godfrey Hotel Chicago  
127 W. Huron St.
- 19 Hampton Inn Majestic  
22 W. Monroe St.
- 20 Hard Rock Hotel Chicago  
230 N. Michigan Ave.
- 21 Hilton Chicago  
720 S. Michigan Ave.
- 22 Hilton Garden Inn Chicago  
10 E. Grand Ave.
- 23 Hilton Suites Chicago Magnificent Mile  
199 E. Delaware Pl.
- 24 Homewood Suites Chicago Downtown  
40 E. Grand Ave.
- 25 Hotel Cass - A Holiday Inn Express  
640 N. Wabash Ave.
- 26 Hotel Chicago  
333 N. Dearborn St.
- 27 Hotel Felix Chicago  
111 W. Huron St.
- 28 Hyatt Chicago Magnificent Mile  
633 N. St. Clair St.
- 29 Hyatt Regency Chicago  
151 E. Wacker Dr.
- 30 Hyatt Regency McCormick Place  
2233 S. Martin Luther King Dr.
- 31 Inn of Chicago Magnificent Mile  
162 E. Ohio St.
- 32 InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile  
505 N. Michigan Ave.
- 33 James Chicago  
55 E. Ontario St.
- 34 JW Marriott Chicago  
151 W. Adams St.
- 35 Kinzie Hotel Chicago  
20 W. Kinzie St.
- 36 Langham, Chicago  
330 N. Wabash Ave.
- 37 Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel Chicago  
163 E. Walton Pl.
- 38 Omni Chicago Hotel  
676 N. Michigan Ave.
- 39 Palmer House Hilton  
17 E. Monroe St.
- 40 Park Hyatt  
800 N. Michigan Ave.
- 41 Peninsula Chicago  
106 E. Superior St.
- 42 Radisson Blu Aqua Chicago Hotel  
221 N. Columbus Dr.
- 43 Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel  
636 S. Michigan Ave.
- 44 Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel  
1 W. Wacker Dr.
- 45 Residence Inn Chicago Magnificent Mile  
201 E. Walton Pl.
- 46 Residence Inn Chicago River North  
410 N. Dearborn St.
- 47 Ritz-Carlton Chicago (A Four Seasons Hotel)  
160 E. Pearson St.
- 48 Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers  
301 E. North Water St.
- 49 Silversmith Hotel & Suites  
10 S. Wabash Ave.
- 50 Sofitel Chicago Water Tower  
20 E. Chestnut St.
- 51 SpringHill Suites Chicago River North  
410 N. Dearborn St.
- 52 Swissotel Chicago  
323 E. Wacker Dr.
- 53 Thompson Chicago  
21 E. Bellevue Pl.
- 54 Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago  
401 N. Wabash Ave.
- 55 W Chicago City Center  
172 W. Adams St.
- 56 W Chicago Lakeshore  
644 N. Lake Shore Dr.
- 57 Warwick Allerton Hotel  
701 N. Michigan Ave.
- 58 Westin Chicago River North  
320 N. Dearborn St.
- 59 Westin Michigan Avenue Chicago  
909 N. Michigan Ave.
- 60 theWIT - A DoubleTree by Hilton  
201 N. State St.
- 61 Wyndham Grand Chicago Riverfront  
71 E. Upper Wacker Dr.

- 32 InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile  
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