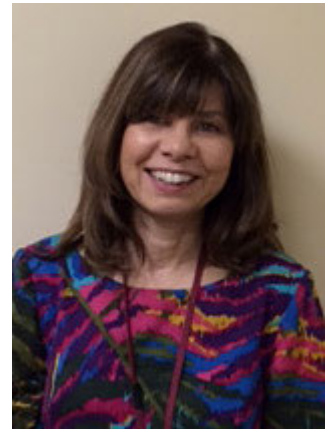


Dr. Aurora Denial, Editor of ASCO's journal *Optometric Education* and Professor at New England College of Optometry (NECO), is the first person to earn the status of Diplomate for the American Academy of Optometry's (AAO) Optometric Education Section. She joins a specialized group of 326 AAO Fellows (7%) who have achieved the distinction of Diplomate.

In 2010, the AAO passed a rule requiring each Section to have a process for achieving Diplomate status. In a recent NECO press release, Dr. Denial explained, "Since it was new for our section, I felt we needed to start inspiring Optometric Education Fellows to apply to become distinguished educators, and someone needed to lead the way. Through this, I wanted to serve as a role model for other Fellows in my Section." Several others Fellows in Optometric Education are now working toward Diplomate status.



*Dr. Aurora Denial*