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Thank You, Our Friend

Next summer ASCO will celebrate its 75th anniversary as an organization. Throughout the remarkable growth in our membership, alongside the vast changes in the profession, we have been masterfully led by our Executive Director Marty Wall, behind the scenes for the past 25 of those years. This July, Marty will be retiring after a notable career in optometric education, and we will be celebrating his contributions in Seattle on June 24 at a reception in his honor.

Please help me thank Marty for supporting our students, our faculty and the 21 ASCO presidents and deans he has worked alongside. Let’s thank him for the implementation of multiple strategic plans that brought us the Summer Institute for Faculty Development, initiatives in diversity and interprofessional education, communication strategies, two updated logos, a contemporary and engaging website and ORMatch. Let’s make sure he knows how much we appreciate the cultural competency workshops, the executive leadership development, the Future Faculty Program and the extensive ASCO/AOA Joint Project Team on “Further Developing a Robust, Diverse and Highly Qualified Applicant Pool.” He has helped us to navigate and communicate data from multiple workforce studies, while continuously promoting advocacy in our profession through intra-organizational communication, networking with FASHP colleagues and drafting well-researched and thought-out responses whenever the call-to-action arises. Join me in thanking him for being so welcoming to new members of ASCO, mentoring new faculty and administrators when they join committees or SIGS. We are a stronger organization because of Marty’s leadership, his commitment, and his ability to keep our policies relevant and the charge of our mission, goals and objectives front and center. His organizational memory and wise perspectives will be greatly missed.

Finally, I would like to personally thank Marty for all of his advice, his friendship and his role in making optometric education a strong and rewarding career path. Good luck, our friend, on your next adventure in life and may the Washington Nationals win the World Series with you cheering them on from the stands!
Applications Being Accepted Now for Education Research Grants

ASCO is once again offering Educational Starter Grants in support of education research. Funding for the 2015 grant program is provided by Luxottica and The Vision Care Institute, LLC, an affiliate of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Inc. The Educational Starter Grants are based on the concept of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL); however, all types of education research projects will be considered. Collaborations between institutions are encouraged.

Faculty from all schools and colleges of optometry in the 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico are eligible to submit a proposal. The amount and number of awards will vary depending on the individual projects. Budget requests up to $4,000 will be considered. Applications must be submitted by midnight on May 29, 2015, and awarding of the grants will occur by June 16. The resulting manuscripts will be peer-reviewed and published in ASCO’s journal Optometric Education.

For more information, see the complete details about the grants and the application process. Questions can be directed to Dr. Aurora Denial, Editor, Optometric Education, at deniala@neco.edu or (617) 587-5769.
ASCO Supported Recognition of Optometry in Mexico

More than a year after ASCO voiced its support of the proposal, the government in Mexico finalized in March a presidential decree that modifies Article 79 of that country’s Health Act to include optometry among the health professions requiring a university-level degree to be practiced.

In December 2013, ASCO President Dr. Jennifer Coyle sent a letter to Congressional Deputy Ricardo Anaya Cortés, President of the LXII Parliament, stating in part that “Universities in Mexico have been educating optometrists for more than 60 years; therefore, requiring optometrists to attain a university-level degree in order to practice is an excellent first step in establishing the highest standards of eye and vision care that the population deserves.”
Optometric Education Journal Undergoing an Update

ASCO’s journal Optometric Education is undergoing some changes and will emerge as a more technologically advanced and user-friendly publication with its Summer 2015 issue in July.

The journal will appear online in a new format, equipped with new digital capabilities that will make its content more easily searchable via Google Scholar and other search engines. All content will be available as a web page, eliminating the need to open or download a PDF file. The updates will simplify the finding and sharing of information for students and practitioners and improve the reading experience on all devices, including smartphones and tablets.

The updates also give ASCO corporate contributors and other supporters a new way to direct readers to their websites via a simple click-through. In addition, the new format and capabilities open opportunities for future discussions and forums online.
Retiring Executive Director to Receive Honorary Degree

ASCO Executive Director Marty Wall, MPA, CAE, will be presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by the Southern College of Optometry at the college’s commencement ceremony in May.

After nearly 25 years of stellar leadership and dedication to the achievement of ASCO’s ever-expanding goals, Marty will retire from his Executive Director position in mid-July.
ASCO Staff Promotion

LaShawn Sidbury, CMP

ASCO staff member LaShawn Sidbury, CMP, has been promoted to the position of Director, Meetings and Special Interest Groups.

When LaShawn joined ASCO in 2007, she was responsible for managing seven Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and planning 19 events per year. She now manages 14 SIGs and 30 meetings per year, including the Association’s Summer Institute for Faculty Development and Future Faculty Program.

According to ASCO Executive Director Marty Wall, MPA, CAE, “LaShawn is also our ‘technology innovator,’ having been the driving force behind our development of online collaborative tools and our association management system. We’re fortunate to have LaShawn with ASCO and to be able to recognize her growth as an association executive in a tangible way.”
ASCO Welcomes New Office Manager

Sara Lau

Sara Lau has begun a long-term assignment with ASCO as Office Manager. Originally from the Washington, D.C., area, Sara lived in Miami for 12 years before returning recently. While in Miami she worked for a nonprofit religious corporation and gained experience in a wide range of association functions, including board and committee liaison, executive support, budgeting and risk management.
Applications for Residencies Increase

The number of applicants using ASCO’s Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch) application service was 3% higher for 2015 than during the previous match cycle. According to results released March 9, 73% of the applicants were matched with an optometry residency program, and 86% of the available positions were filled. This year, 210 residency sites with 411 available positions participated. Matched applicants submitted an average of 4.5 applications each. ORMatch, which pairs people with programs based on a mutual ranking algorithm, is in its third year of operation since being established by ASCO.

A post-match process enables unmatched applicants and programs with unfilled residency positions to contact one another independent of ORMatch. For more information, contact Paige Pence, ASCO’s Director of Student and Residency Affairs.
Student Award in Clinical Ethics

Molly Spatcher

ASCO and its Ethics Educators Special Interest Group are pleased to announce Molly Spatcher as the winner of the 2015 Student Award in Clinical Ethics. This annual national award, sponsored by International Vision Expo, provides the winner with $1,000 and a commemorative plaque.

Molly, whose winning essay is titled “Going Nuclear: An Ethical Dilemma in Optometric Care” is a fourth-year student, Class of 2015, at New England College of Optometry. The essay will also be published in the Summer 2015 issue of ASCO’s journal *Optometric Education.*
ASCO Student Award in Clinical Ethics (Sponsored by International Vision Expo)

Going Nuclear: An Ethical Dilemma in Optometric Care

By Molly Spatcher

New England College of Optometry Class of 2015

Patient Case

A 62-year-old Caucasian male presented for a low-vision evaluation on referral from his ophthalmologists. He had recently been diagnosed with a sudden onset optic neuropathy and complained that his vision in both eyes had been getting progressively worse over the last month. He also described visual phenomena suggestive of Charles Bonnet syndrome. His diagnosis was complicated by longstanding pseudoexfoliative glaucoma for which he was using brimonidine. His medical history was significant for type 2 diabetes, hypertension and leukemia, which had been in remission for four years.
Upon examination, his best-corrected vision measured 20/2400 in his right eye and counting fingers at 6 inches in his left eye. Visual field testing was inconclusive because of the patient’s inability to fixate. Despite qualifying as legally blind based on his visual acuity, the patient had not yet been registered with the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB), but he stated that he had given up driving voluntarily because he no longer felt safe doing so. As a father of four and the sole wage earner in his household, he expressed concern that his visual impairment was limiting his ability to work. In spite of the difficulty he was experiencing at work, he disclosed that he could not afford to lose his job and that he feared dismissal if the extent of his visual impairment was made public. The patient reported that he was an engineer at a nuclear power plant.

**Ethical Quandary**

With a single statement, this patient’s case went from being relatively straightforward to ethically complex. While often a source of ethical dilemmas, the loss of driver’s license was not this patient’s primary concern as he had already voluntarily given up driving. More problematic in this case was the patient’s fear of losing his job because of his impairment. As someone in a very specialized profession whose family depended on his ability to provide for them, he found himself facing a potentially life-altering decision, which he brought to the optometrist’s attention. From the optometrist’s perspective, what are the legal and ethical obligations in a case like this?

As with most ethical dilemmas, this case falls in a gray area. Unlike the well-defined visual requirements needed to legally obtain a driver’s license,^3^ most employers do not have specific visual criteria that must be met. In fact, with very few exceptions, employers are not legally allowed to inquire about or base employment decisions on knowledge of a disability such as visual impairment. In the United States, this protection is afforded to disabled individuals under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).^6^ This law exists for obvious reasons to protect the rights and privacy of disabled individuals whose performance on the job is often a better indication of their abilities than an eye examination might be. It is not until such time that job performance is affected or there is an indication that the employee is unable to safely perform the essential functions of his/her job that an employer can even ask about a disability. Without a much more specific job description, it is impossible to tell in this case whether this patient’s job performance has been affected or if he is a safety risk.

In addition to the uncertainty surrounding this patient’s ability to safely perform his job and the employer’s right to be informed about an employee’s visual impairment, the optometrist’s role in protecting privacy is ambiguous. In general, the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) prohibits disclosure of protected health information without patient consent except when required by state law.^5^ Disclosure of protected health information is also allowed, but not required, under other limited circumstances, which include measures to protect public health.^5^ Unlike the mandated reporting of legal blindness to the MCB and consequently to the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV),^3,4^ there is no specific legal guidance to help an optometrist decide if visual impairment should be reported to a patient’s employer in a high-risk case such as this.

While release of protected health information may be legally allowed in this case, the optometrist has an ethical obligation to act in the best interest of his or patient. As defined by the Code of Ethics published by the American Optometric Association (AOA), “It shall be the ideal, resolve, and duty of all optometrists to keep their patients’ eye, vision, and general health paramount at all times; to respect the rights and dignity of patients regarding their health care decisions [and] to ensure confidentiality and privacy of patients’ protected health and other personal information.”^1^ This code of ethics and the AOA’s Standards of Professional Conduct indicate that the optometrist should protect his or her patient’s confidentiality and autonomy at all costs.^1,2^
From a societal point of view, however, and in light of highly publicized accidents at nuclear power plants in places like Chernobyl, Three Mile Island and Fukushima, it is reasonable and necessary to consider the potential public health impact of a visually impaired individual in a high-risk job with no margin for error. While the World Nuclear Association considers nuclear reactor accidents to be “the epitome of low-probability but high-consequence risks,” it is important to mitigate the risks, including the potential for operator error due to visual impairment. After all, the optometrist has an ethical obligation to protect the interests of both his or her patient and the general public. As stated in the Code of Ethics referenced above, “It shall be the ideal, resolve, and duty of all optometrists ... to recognize their obligation to protect the health and welfare of society.”

When the interests of various stakeholders are so clearly in opposition, there is inherently an ethical dilemma. On one hand there is the patient’s right to autonomy and on the other is the optometrist’s obligation to society and to do good (beneficence).

Management and Resolution

After consideration of the ethical and legal obligations in this case, an appropriate management strategy, which included a variety of low-vision aids and significant patient education, was devised. Due to the severity of vision loss, the computer application ZoomText and both a desktop and a handheld CCTV were recommended for this patient’s use. The patient also expressed interest in white cane training and was referred to an orientation and mobility specialist for this.

In addition, the patient was reported as legally blind to the MCB as required in Massachusetts and allowed by a clause in HIPAA. One consequence of this registration is an automatic loss of driver’s license, which the patient was resigned to and willing to accept. With the optometrist’s legal obligation fulfilled and the ethical dilemma carefully considered, it was decided that it would be unethical to report the patient’s visual impairment to his employer. Instead of breaking confidentiality, the patient was provided with the information he needed to make a fully informed decision about continuing to work. He was educated regarding his rights as a legally blind individual and his employer’s responsibility to make reasonable accommodations under the law. In the interest of public safety, the patient was encouraged to communicate openly with his employer about his impairment. It was believed that as a highly educated man, the patient knew best what the visual demands of his job were and what the implications of his decision to keep working might be. By educating this patient regarding his visual impairment, his rights under the law, and asking difficult questions of him, the optometrist was able to promote beneficence while also allowing the patient to retain his autonomy.

References


The 2015 ASCO Student Award in Clinical Ethics is sponsored by International Vision Expo. As the winner, Molly receives
$1,000 and a commemorative plaque.
Optometry Virtual Fair Set for April 21

Registration is now open for ASCO’s 2015 Optometry Virtual Fair, which will take place on April 21. The online event gives anyone interested in applying to optometry school the opportunity to live chat with admissions representatives from all of the 21 ASCO member schools and colleges. Representatives will be available to answer questions and provide information about their optometry programs and the optometric profession in general.

Register for the free event to see each school’s hours of availability, or contact Paige Pence, ASCO’s Director of Student and Residency Affairs, for more information.
ASCO Compiles Latest Annual Survey Data

ASCO recently completed its annual Faculty Data and Research Survey reports. According to the Faculty Data Report for Academic Year 2014-2015, the total number of 1.0 FTE faculty at the 21 member institutions increased 2.7% compared with the previous year, from 693 to 712. In addition, 47.5% of 1.0 FTE faculty members are male and 52.5% are female. The number of male 1.0 FTE faculty members decreased 1.5%, and the number of 1.0 FTE female faculty members increased 6.9%. The report was made available to the deans and presidents of ASCO member institutions in March. More information, including ethnicity by academic rank and gender, degrees earned by academic rank and gender, recruitment sources and percentage of full-time salary contributed for a standard employee benefits package, can be found here.

The 2013-2014 Research Survey Report, which was distributed to the ASCO Board of Directors in February, shows that the amount of externally funded research at ASCO member institutions during the report period (Oct. 1, 2013 - Sept. 30, 2014) was approximately $45.2 million. The National Eye Institute (NEI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was the single largest funding source, providing more than $27 million. Other major funding sources (excluding industry) were NASA, the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the U.S. Department of Defense and other institutes of the NIH. Click for a list of the top funding sources.
ASCO to Lead Dialogue on Specialties and Subspecialties in Optometry

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) will be initiating a dialogue with multiple stakeholder organizations on the development of formal specialties and subspecialties in optometry as a result of action taken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on March 14, 2015, in Portland, Ore. The action came after a task force led by Dr. Stanley Woo, Dean, Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University, reported its recommendations to the ASCO Board. The ASCO leadership team will be comprised of Dr. David Heath, President, State University of New York College of Optometry, Chair, Dr. Woo and Dr. Kelly Nichols, Dean, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry.

In other major actions, the ASCO Board:

- Approved the following 2015 nominees for ASCO awards, which will be presented at the Annual Leadership Luncheon on June 24, 2015, in Seattle, Wash.:
  - Posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Alfred A. Rosenbloom
  - Dr. Jack Bennett Innovation in Optometric Education Award: Dr. Mark Colip (Illinois College of Optometry)
  - Rising Star Award: Dr. Todd D. Peabody (Indiana University School of Optometry)
  - Industry Leadership Award: Dave Sattler (formerly of Alcon).

- Approved Partnership Endowment funding for the following two projects:
  - Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Summit to be held in February 2016 and led by ASCO President Dr. Jennifer Coyle
  - An ASCO Comprehensive Strategic Planning Process in October 2015.

This fiscal year, grants totaling more than $296,000 were awarded to advance optometric education through the Partnership Endowment.

Also: Following the resignation of Dr. Richard Phillips from his positions as President of Southern College of Optometry and ASCO President-Elect, Dr. David Heath has been elected as ASCO’s Interim President-Elect (formerly he was Immediate Past-President), and Dr. David Loshin has been elected as ASCO’s Interim Immediate Past-President.
ASCO Journal Publishes IPE Special Report

ASCO’s journal Optometric Education has published a special report, “Interprofessional Education (IPE) and Collaborative Patient Care at U.S. Schools and Colleges of Optometry,” in its Winter-Spring 2015 issue. Prepared by Dr. John Baker (Illinois College of Optometry) and Dr. Melissa Vitek (Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry), both members of ASCO’s IPE and Collaborative Practice Committee, the report provides background on IPE activities at ASCO member schools and discusses the goals and objectives of the Association’s Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Summit, which will take place in February 2016.

Read the full report online and check back in July for the Summer 2015 issue of the journal, which will focus on the theme of IPE.
Support Continues for CL Resource

The Centre for Contact Lens Research at the University of Waterloo announced that Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Companies has committed funding to continue the evolution of its four-year-old site, ContactLensUpdate.com. The site is meant to be an unbiased resource providing eyecare professionals worldwide with evidence-based clinical insights relating to key research findings. In addition, its Resource Library offers tools for eye doctors and information for patients.
Vision Impact Institute Expands Mission and Strategy

Now under new leadership with Maureen Cavanagh as President, the Vision Impact Institute, supported by Essilor, is renewing its commitment to advocate for new data on the socio-economic impact of poor vision while expanding the scope of its mission to include the importance of healthy vision and the quality of life benefits of visual correction. “Our mission in 2015 includes a continued focus on collecting existing data and supporting new research on these global and regional socio-economic effects while also emphasizing the benefits of healthy vision and ensuring this compelling evidence gets in the right hands to support a call to action,” Cavanagh said in a recent press release. The Institute plans to unveil a revamped website this month.

Also: Essilor is running print and digital ads targeting culinary professionals and triathletes in order to highlight the benefits of Optifog fog-free lenses.
New Lens Case is More User-Friendly

Packages of Alcon’s Clear Care Solution now contain a new contact lens case. The case has been redesigned with lens baskets differing in color (blue and white) to help patients more easily differentiate between left and right lenses before and after cleaning. In addition, the lens baskets now have tabs to enable easier opening.

According to Carla Mack, Director of U.S. Professional and Clinical Support for Alcon, “Clear Care Solution provides unsurpassed lens cleaning and disinfection, and users are typically very compliant, but these changes to the new contact lens case can help make this critically important lens cleaning and disinfecting process even simpler and more convenient for users.”

Also: The line of Air Optix Colors contact lenses now includes plus powers across the full range of nine colors for patients with hyperopia.

Click for more information.
Acquisition of Allergan Complete

Actavis reported the completion of its acquisition of Allergan Inc. in a cash and equity transaction valued at approximately $70.5 billion. According to Actavis, the combination creates one of the world’s top 10 pharmaceutical companies by sales revenue, with combined annual pro forma revenues of more than $23 billion anticipated in 2015.

“The combination of Actavis and Allergan creates an exceptional global pharmaceutical company and a leader in a new industry model — Growth Pharma,” Brent Saunders, CEO and President of Actavis, said in a March press release. “Anchored by world-renowned brand franchises, a leading global generics business, a premier pharmaceutical development pipeline and an experienced management team committed to maintaining highly efficient operations across the organization, we are creating an unrivaled foundation for long-term growth. Our combined company will be built around a customer-focused commitment to partnering with physicians, pharmacists and patients to deliver innovative treatments and enhance access to important therapies around the world.”

Click for more information.
Management Team Expansion

Irwin Kronenberg has joined the Marco team in the newly created position of Director of Institutional Sales and Professional Services. Irwin has a distinguished 35 years in the ophthalmic/optometric marketplace. He had worked for the past 14 years with Haag-Streit/Reliance Medical Products as VP of Sales and Marketing. Institutional Sales and Professional Services is a newly created position at Marco, and Irwin will be responsible for government, VA, residencies, schools and other institutions currently served by Marco.
Online Diagnostic Instrument Training

Eyecare professionals who need to familiarize themselves with Topcon Medical Systems diagnostic equipment can rely on the Topcon Online University training system. The site debut featured the CV-5000S Automated Vision Tester, KR-1W Wavefront Analyzer and CL-300 Computerized Lensmeter, and instruments are added as training materials become available.

The Topcon Online University Training Program is designed for technicians, optometrists, ophthalmologists and other eyecare professionals who are getting started with Topcon instrumentation. Through a combination of narrated videos, graphics and step-by-step instructions, the system highlights the key features and operating procedures of each instrument.

Also: Now available from Topcon is the new, fully automatic TRC-NW400 Non-Mydriatic Retinal Camera. Using the TRC-NW400, operators do not need to spend time aligning, centering, focusing or capturing color retinal images because the unit automatically performs these steps once the camera is positioned in front of the eye.

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School Benefits Available at Vision Expo West

International Vision Expo reminds the schools and colleges of optometry that it wants to help staff and alumni. For Vision Expo West in September, each school will receive a dedicated link that enables staff and alumni to obtain free registration and a 10% discount on continuing education.

According to Kristen Reynolds, Professional Relations Manager for The Vision Council, the Vision Expo alumni program is growing. Schools that choose to host alumni receptions at Vision Expo West will receive $1,000 toward the cost of the reception. Free registration and events for optometry students, including the Choose Your Own Adventure course, will also be available.

For all information related to school, student and alumni programs at International Vision Expo, e-mail Reynolds or call her at (703) 548-0627.
Contact Lens Designed for Digital Life

BAUSCH+LOMB

Bausch + Lomb is calling consumers’ attention to survey results indicating that Americans spend more than 400 minutes per day staring at digital screens and how that affects blink rate and the visual experience. The company suggests its Ultra contact lenses with MoistureSeal technology as an accompanying technology upgrade because they have been shown to maintain 95% of their moisture for a full 16 hours to provide excellent end-of-day vision and comfort. For more information, including GeekBeat.TV host Cali Lewis’ Ultra upgrade challenge, visit YouTube.

Also: The company announced the availability of a mobile app designed to help eyecare practitioners successfully fit patients with PureVision2 for Presbyopia contact lenses. The PureVision2 Multi-Focal Fit Guide app is free to download in the App Store and is compatible with all iPhone, iPad and iPod touch devices running iOS 6 or higher.
Leadership Team Takes Shape

Dr. Joseph Zinkovich

As of Jan. 15, the following administrators officially stepped into their new roles with the MCPHS University School of Optometry:

- Dr. Joseph Zinkovich, Dean
- Dr. Amy Falk, Associate Dean for Clinical Programs
- Dr. Darren Koenig, Associate Dean for Academic Programs.

As Dean, Dr. Zinkovich is also serving as a member of the ASCO Board of Directors.
Sato Co-Chairs National Task Force

Tami Sato, Senior Director for Enrollment Management and Financial Aid at Marshall B. Ketchum University, recently served as Co-Chair of the Servicing Issues Task Force, which was convened by the National Direct Student Loan Coalition and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). She was selected by NASFAA to represent its more than 20,000 members in the Co-Chair role.

After surveying more than 2,200 financial aid administrators from more than 1,500 higher education institutions, the task force issued its final report earlier this year. The report examined the state of the relationship between borrowers and student loan servicers, identified sources of confusion, misunderstanding and, potentially, missed payments or default and made recommendations to the Department of Education and other relevant agencies for improving federal loan servicing.
Dr. Leasher Joins NEHEP Planning Committee

The National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) announced Dr. Janet Leasher, Associate Professor of optometry at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (NOVA), as its new Planning Committee member for 2015-2018. The Planning Committee, which advises the National Eye Institute on the overall development, implementation and evaluation of NEHEP activities, comprises experts in eye care and public health education.

Dr. Leasher has served as the Director of Community Outreach for the College of Optometry since 2003. She spearheads community health education and promotion projects in visual health. Her current teaching assignments in the Doctor of Optometry program include public health didactic courses and primary care, pediatric and binocular vision clinics. She is also a member of the faculty in the Master of Science Clinical Vision Research program and holds a faculty appointment within the Public Health program at the university’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. Her research interests include program evaluation and global access to quality vision care.
Expo Focuses on Fun for Individuals with Vision Impairment

Participants in the 2014 Houston Area Insight Expo. (Photo by David Gee)

The theme of the fourth annual Houston Area Insight Expo, scheduled to take place April 25 at the University of Houston, is “Looking Into Leisure.” The event will address leisure-time pursuits for the visually impaired through workshops on audio-described venues, book services and clubs, outdoor activities, martial arts and physical training, crafts and gardening, ham and Internet radio, fine arts and music and dance. In addition to the workshops, a variety of vendors and organizations serving the visually impaired community will be displaying their information and products for attendees.

Also: The Multiple Sclerosis Eye Center for Analysis, Research and Education (MS Eye CARE), a partnership between the University Eye Institute at the University of Houston College of Optometry and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. The center has been a leader in making eye care an integral part of the MS diagnosis and treatment process.
Faculty Member Participates in White House Conference on Aging

Dr. Vladimir Yevseyenkov

Dr. Vladimir Yevseyenkov, Assistant Professor at Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry and the Midwestern University Eye Institute, was invited to participate in a White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) regional forum, which was held in Phoenix on March 31.

The WHCOA has been held once a decade since 1961 and is designed to help chart the course of aging policy. The 2015 conference, to be held in Washington, D.C., later this year, is focusing on four areas: ensuring retirement security; promoting healthy aging; providing long-term services and supports; and protecting older Americans from financial exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Dr. Yevseyenkov is heavily involved in research and treatments for low vision and vision rehabilitation for the elderly population.
NEI Grant to Support Myopia Research

Dr. Frances Rucker

Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences and Disease at New England College of Optometry Dr. Frances Rucker has been awarded a five-year grant totaling more than $1.5 million from the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health in support of her research project “cone sensitivity to temporal changes in color and luminance and the development of myopia.” The grant will support research on the signals for eye growth in relation to color and luminance visual stimulation.

Dr. Rucker has been studying the environmental signals that drive myopia in an effort to identify modifications that can be made in the environment to control the development of myopia and eventually lead to a treatment. In addition to her research, Dr. Rucker teaches classes such as Human Anatomy, Ocular Physiology and Anatomy and Physiology, and she mentors master’s students.
Farewell to Dr. Rosenbloom

Dr. Alfred A. Rosenbloom, Jr., who was Dean of Illinois College of Optometry (ICO) from 1955 to 1971 and President from 1972 to 1982, died at the age of 94 on April 7. As noted by ICO, for more than 50 years, Dr. Rosenbloom served not only as a skilled practitioner but also as a teacher and administrator to thousands of students and a mentor to alumni, faculty and colleagues.

He and his wife, Sarah, saw a long-time dream become a reality in January with the grand opening of the Alfred and Sarah Rosenbloom Center on Vision and Aging at the Illinois Eye Institute. In March, the Board of Directors of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry approved Dr. Rosenbloom as the recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award, which will be presented posthumously at the Association’s Leadership Luncheon on June 24 in Seattle, Wash. To read more about Dr. Rosenbloom, visit the ICO website.

Also: ICO Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Stephanie Messner recently led a phone conversion with ICO alumni Dr. Andrew Buzzelli and Dr. Sunny Sanders, who are, respectively, the founding deans of the University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry and the Midwestern University College of Optometry-Illinois. They talk about, among other topics, the challenges and rewards of their endeavors. The discussion is published in the spring issue of ICO Matters.
College Takes on New Imaging Studies

Dr. Pinakin G. Davey is the principal investigator for the OCT-1 Maestro studies at Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry. (Photo by Jeff Malet)

Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry is conducting an agreement and precision trial and a normative reference database trial with the OCT-1 Maestro, an optical coherence tomography device for which Topcon is seeking FDA clearance. The trials, which began in March and will continue until June 2015, involve patients in three categories: healthy, diagnosed with glaucoma and diagnosed with retinal diseases.

“These kinds of trials put us in the forefront of developing technology,” Dr. Pinakin G. Davey commented for a university news article. “We can improve our collaboration with industry and get certain bench-to-bedside ideas out there and implemented.”
SCO Announces Administration Changes

Dr. Lewis Reich, left, and Dr. J. Bart Campbell

Dr. Lewis Reich, Professor and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, has been named Interim President at Southern College of Optometry (SCO) following the recent resignation of Dr. Richard W. Phillips. Dr. Reich joined the SCO faculty in 2008 after nearly a decade with the Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry. Dr. J. Bart Campbell, previously the Chair of Optometric Education at SCO, was named Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Also: Dr. Phillips, former ASCO President-Elect, was recently named Optometrist of the South by SECO

Dr. Richard Phillips accepts the Optometrist of the South award from outgoing SECO President Dr. Jim Herman.

International. He was honored in part for his leadership that led to the construction of a new academic complex while he was President of SCO and for encouraging optometry students to become more involved in their profession at the regional and national levels.
Salus University Faculty Members Receive Awards

Dr. Satya Verma received a Life Fellowship Award from the AAO in November 2014. He is pictured with Dr. Bernard Dolan, who is now the AAO’s Immediate Past President.

This May, Dr. Satya Verma, Associate Professor and Assistant Director of the Externship Program at Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry, will be presented with the Pennsylvania Optometric Association’s 2015 Dr. Jerry Davidoff Memorial Award. The award is given to a person who demonstrates high moral character, professionalism and a willingness to assist in the professional growth of his or her colleagues. The awardee is recognized for leadership skills and dedication to the optometric profession. In November 2014, Dr. Verma was honored by the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) with a Life Fellowship Award.

Dr. Verma recently began his two-year term as President of the National Academies of Practice (NAP). He is only the second optometrist to become President of NAP, which represents 14 healthcare professions. Prior to his election, Dr. Verma, a nationally known expert on geriatric optometry, served as chair of the Optometry Academy within NAP.

Also: Dr. William Monaco, Associate Dean of the university’s Graduate Programs in Biomedicine and Associate Director of Public Health programs, received the Orion Award from the Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS). The award is the organization’s highest honor and is presented to AFOS members who have made the most significant contributions to the society and the study of optometry. Dr. Monaco is a founding member of AFOS.
Congratulations, Marty, on Your Upcoming Retirement!

From the colleagues and friends of Marty Wall, CAE, who is retiring in July after nearly 25 years as Executive Director of the Association of Schools and College of Optometry ...
Dear Marty,

Thanks for hosting and moderating ASCO’s discussions and debates during optometry’s greatest quarter century of change. You’ve earned the peace and tranquility of retirement. Enjoy it to the fullest!

Best wishes,

Scotty

Clifford Scott, OD, MPH
President, New England College of Optometry
ASCO Board member

I met Marty in the early 2000s in Orlando during Optometry’s Meeting. Marty struck a conversation with me in the lobby. Since then, he has been a trusted friend and colleague. Marty, you will be dearly missed!

Shilpa J Register, OD, MS, PhD, FAAO, FNAP
Associate Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham College of Optometry
Former ASCO Board member
Marty, what I will remember most about working with you for so many years is that you thanked me for my work at the end of each day. It meant more than you know. I hope your retirement is filled with trips to new places and many to Nationals’ stadium. Enjoy your retirement and know that you will be missed.

Susan Hughes
ASCO Accountant

Marty Wall has been a great supporter of optometry and education. I appreciate his experience, insight, and wisdom. As he embarks on a new chapter in retirement, we all wish him the best and thank him for his friendship and service to our profession.

Stanley Woo, OD, MS, MBA, FAAO
Dean, Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University
ASCO Board member
I think I first met Marty Wall in 1992 during the planning and development of the “Curriculum Conference: Summit on Optometric Education.” I still have that blue binder on my bookshelf to prove it! Over the years I have learned a lot from Marty! He has taught me about many, many things including Dancing with the Stars, Downton Abbey, Chinese food, and the Washington Nationals, just to name a few topics. But mostly I learned about dedicated service and that sometimes nice guys really do finish first. Wishing Marty all the best and congratulating him on his distinguished and successful career. I know that he will continue to give back during this next phase of his life.

Elizabeth Hoppe, OD, MPH, DrPH
Founding Dean, Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry
At-Large Member, ASCO Executive Committee

Marty - Congratulations on your much deserved retirement. You’ve guided the expansion of ASCO into an organization that serves the changing and diverse interests of talented faculty and member institutions. Thank you for your enthusiastic and skilled leadership in support of optometry and optometric education. I hope to see you in Saint Louis for the 2015 NLCS!

Larry J. Davis, OD
Dean, University of Missouri-Saint Louis College of Optometry
Former ASCO President
Longevity in office, alone, speaks for reliance and dependence by the membership and confidence in the individual. All of the “Marty plaudits” are justified. I was in San Juan and participated in his interview and retention. Moreover, I wrote a letter of congratulation to Marty BEFORE he was formally notified. (The other candidate, in my view, was not really serious.) Hail to Marty!

Alden N. Haffner, OD, PhD
President Emeritus, State University of New York, State College of Optometry
Former ASCO President

Twenty-five years at ASCO?! I remember your first day as executive director and was privileged to work with you as we grew professionally and personally. I know you will enjoy “retirement” and the opportunities it offers for sharing your many talents with others and for enjoying more travel, baseball and lunches with friends!

Pat O’Rourke
ASCO Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs, 1984-2007

MW, even though you are retiring that doesn’t mean we should lose touch. I want to hear all about your wonderful travel adventures.

All the best,

Victoria Smith-Moore
It has been my pleasure to have known Marty for these past 24 years, and to have worked with him during the majority of those years. Marty, your leadership and loyalty to ASCO have been a constant throughout that time, and have served as a model for those fortunate to work with you. I wish you the best of luck as you move on to this new stage of life, and know that you will find satisfaction and personal growth in new intellectual, professional and recreational pursuits. Thank you for your guidance and friendship over the years. You will be missed.

Joanne

Joanne C. Zuckerman, MSEd
Manager, Data Services and Special Projects, ASCO

Dear Marty,

It is hard to imagine ASCO without you. Even though I have only been in ASCO since last June, you have been nothing but welcoming and helpful, even with all of my questions. So while I have seen you up close for a short time, you have been at ASCO for my entire career as an optometrist, so I have known of your contributions for my entire optometry experience, thus I can say thank you for helping to shape optometry as I know it.

I have an unusual ability to find four-leaf clovers (one has your name on it), and while some would say that makes me lucky, I believe you can find luck, and sometimes luck finds you. Either way, ASCO was lucky to have you as ED, and may you have good luck as you move into the next phase of your life. It has been my pleasure and honor to work with you since last June on the ASCO board.

Best wishes,

Kelly K. Nichols, OD, MPH, PhD
Dean, The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry
ASCO Board member
Marty,

How I have enjoyed my many interactions with you over the years! Your contributions to Optometry and Optometric Education are many and will have lasting impact. As you retire, know that you are held in the highest esteem by all and you will be missed!

Kevin L. Alexander, OD, PhD
President, Marshall B. Ketchum University
Former ASCO President

Through my involvement with ASCO dating back at least twenty years, it has been a great pleasure for me to experience and appreciate first-hand Marty's exceptional efforts and commitment to ASCO and optometric education. He is energetic, hardworking, knowledgeable, and professional. What I have also greatly valued is his stature and familiarization with his peers in other educational organizations, which has enhanced the visibility of optometry. Many thanks, Marty, for all that you have done, and best wishes for this exciting next chapter in your personal and professional pathways.

Linda Casser, OD, FAAO, FNAP
Professor, Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Interim Director of Education, Physician Assistant Program, College of Health Sciences, Salus University
Former ASCO President-Elect
It has been such a great experience for me to work for you the past eight years at ASCO. You came into work each and every day and always gave your best which inspired me to always do better. I know that ASCO and the profession of optometry appreciate your leadership and dedication over the past 24 years! Retirement may be an ending of one chapter of your life, but it is also a new beginning.

Always wishing you the best!

Paige Pence  
Director, Student and Residency Affairs, ASCO

As former President-Elect of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, I wish to express my gratitude and admiration to Marty Wall upon the occasion of his retirement after a quarter century of making significant contributions to optometric education and the profession of optometry.

Marty’s accomplishments will pass into legend, but his legacy will positively impact our profession for decades to come. He was instrumental in guiding our nation’s colleges of optometry to the higher standards that have helped the scope of the profession expand, thanks in part to the caliber of the programs that educate our nation’s optometric physicians.

The symposia he organized and developed during his tenure resulted in strategic plans that helped guide the professional education of 21st century optometric physicians. His work with Special Interest Groups, the Partnership Endowment and developing the central admissions application process are just some of the many accomplishments that will continue to benefit optometric education after his retirement.

My predecessor, SCO President Emeritus Billy Cochran, OD, led the search process that brought Marty to ASCO. I have had the pleasure of working with Marty during my tenure as President and will be the one to celebrate his many contributions to our profession as he leaves ASCO. I know that Billy and all Deans and Presidents, past and present, join me in expressing our appreciation to Marty Wall on his outstanding accomplishments and our appreciation to him for his notable years of service.

Richard W. Phillips, OD
Former President, Southern College of Optometry  
Former ASCO President-Elect

Marty,

I want to thank you for your many years of service to the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry and the profession of optometry. Although I did not serve with you for the entire length of your service to ASCO I believe, if memory serves me correctly, that I have known you for almost all of your years as Executive Director. I joined the ASCO Board in 2000 and had the opportunity to observe you as you guided the organization forward through many issues amid a wide variety of board members, officers, and management styles. Personally, I had the pleasure of serving as president of ASCO for two terms and enjoyed working with you very much. I am indebted to you for the guidance provided during this time and sharing those years of service with me.

During your tenure, ASCO has become a better known organization within the optometric profession. Clearly I believe the members of the profession understand the importance of optometric education in a manner they did not previously comprehend. Among your many talents as ASCO’s Executive Director, there are two that stand out in my memory. The first was your ability to organize meetings and make sure all of the appropriate subjects were covered. Second, and perhaps of even more value to ASCO, was your institutional memory. Your unique ability to recall when certain actions were taken and why they were taken served the organization well.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed our many conversations over the years and above all appreciate your friendship. Marty, I wish you many years of happiness and success as you leave this chapter of your career and know you will contribute to all of your future endeavors in a meaningful way.

Again, thank you for all of your efforts in leading optometric education and the profession forward.

Warmest regards,

John F. Amos, OD, MS, DOS  
Professor and Dean, (Retired), University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry
For the past 25 years, Marty has seen ASCO and optometric education go through tremendous growth and change. He has been a wonderful supporter and administrator and I know the best years are ahead of him as he enters retirement. On behalf of all the faculty and board members, past and present, we thank you for all you’ve done for us, our students and the profession.

Jenny Coyle, OD, MS, FAAO  
Dean, Pacific University College of Optometry  
ASCO President

Marty, thank you for 25 years of outstanding, dedicated service to our profession. You have seen many changes over this time and have guided ASCO with your great leadership. Thank you!

Doug Penisten, OD, PhD  
Dean, Northeastern State University - Oklahoma College of Optometry  
ASCO Board member
Marty,

From all of us at PulsePoint Group, thank you so much for the tremendous contribution you made to ASCO and to the optometric profession.

Having worked with you in a marketing capacity for the past five years, we could not have asked for a better Executive Director — smart, dedicated, and meticulous — a real leader.

Your guidance and support have ensured that more people now know about and are motivated to consider the strong educational program and the highly regarded optometric profession.

Thank you again for going above and beyond! It’s been a pleasure and an honor!

All the best,

Debbie Godfrey PhD
Principal, PulsePoint Group

Congratulations Marty on the occasion of your retirement! Over the past 25 years, you have provided ASCO with tremendous leadership, dedication and wisdom. As a member of the board and having served as an ASCO president, please know how much I have valued your support, counsel and friendship as we sought to advance ASCO and optometric education nationwide. Enjoy your retirement and live well!

David A. Heath, OD, EdM
President, State University of New York College of Optometry
Immediate Past-President, ASCO
Thank you for all your help and support in regards to the journal. In addition to your guidance, I enjoyed working with you. I enjoyed hearing about your interesting travels and adventures, which now you will be doing more of. Enjoy retirement and keep in touch.

Aurora Denial, OD
Professor of Optometry and Department Chair, Primary Care, New England College of Optometry
Editor, Optometric Education journal

Marty,

You’ve given your staff a great picture of what a successful organizer and leader looks like, and you’ve shown what true commitment to an organization is. I will particularly miss your institutional memory and the sound administrative and professional guidance you’ve given so freely during my two tenures at ASCO. You’ve shown that people from a variety of backgrounds/philosophies can have productive yet brief discussions — with the help of an egg timer that is! You’ve set a high standard for ASCO’s next leader and for that we are all grateful. I wish you a much-deserved “happily ever after” in your retirement!

Blessings,

Carol Brubaker
Manager, Professional Affairs, ASCO
Marty,

It is with very mixed feelings that I learned of your retirement. When I think about friendship and professionalism, your name is at the top of the list for me. I am glad that we have been blessed with you these many years but I know that it will be awhile for me to adjust to not having a friend like you around to talk with, laugh with, and plan with. There will always be an ASCO but there will only be one Marty Wall. We are privileged that you have been here to guide us these many years. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

Sincerely,
Andy

Andrew Buzzelli, OD, MS
University of Pikeville, Vice President for Optometric Education
Kentucky College of Optometry, Founding Dean

Dear Marty,

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, i.e., you are ASCO Executive Director and you are retiring. I wish you well in this next chapter of your life. We will miss you. Go Caps!

Joe Bonanno, OD, PhD, FAAO
Professor & Dean, Indiana University School of Optometry
ASCO Secretary-Treasurer
During the last twenty-five years, I have attended ASCO meetings as a representative of three different optometric educational institutions, and during that time you have capably served ASCO as Executive Director with professionalism, integrity, and with great preparation for each meeting. ASCO is in a far better place now than when you arrived. Thank you.

Arol Augsburger, OD
President, Illinois College of Optometry
Former Dean, University of Alabama at Birmingham, College of Optometry
Former Professor of Clinical Optometry and Director of External Programs, The Ohio State University College of Optometry
Former ASCO President

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Marty: Congratulations on your retirement as Executive Director of ASCO. After a quarter century of handling Deans and Presidents you deserve at least another 25 years of peace and harmony. Please know that you have always had my admiration and respect for your personal and professional abilities.

Wishing you all the best,
Billy

William E. Cochran, OD
President Emeritus, Southern College of Optometry
Former ASCO President

________________________________________________________________________________
Congratulations, Marty, from your Financial Coordinator, who remembers that you used your fine instincts to decide to hire me and then gave me lots of opportunity to grow professionally. It’s been a great run for you at ASCO. You’ve been there through very interesting times. I wish you a wonderful retirement filled with many happy adventures yet to enjoy.

Alice Baum
Former Financial Coordinator