

# **EYE on EDUCATION**

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January 2017

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**“It is a serious thing  
Just to be alive  
On this fresh morning  
In this broken world” — Mary Oliver**



Dr. Karla Zadnik

(Photo by Jo McCulty, The Ohio State University)

As I sat down to write this column, it had been a bit of a month — the election, the American Academy of Optometry meeting, the football game against that team up north, the tragedy on The Ohio State campus the week before. Mary Oliver is an Ohio poet whose words often resonate with me. Her bittersweet words did so again as I reflected on November 2016.

Our acute memories of that dreadful Monday at Ohio State faded with each passing hour — what it felt like to see family’s and friends’ concerned text messages; how to connect with what happened on a different part of campus without being overwhelmed by it; how to stay on track for the work and exams and challenges that week and into December; how proud we were of our campus alert system and our first responders.

We certainly get to celebrate our achievements. ASCO institutions were prominent at the Academy meeting in Anaheim, which was the biggest one ever! Our ASCO SIGs were meeting around every corner, and their feedback on our strategic planning efforts is much appreciated.

Now for a personal point of privilege. The Ohio State-Michigan game was ... exciting. Five hours of ESPN Game Day on campus. Lee Corso put on the Brutus head in the south end of Ohio Stadium. I shudder to think what my blood pressure was during the first overtime, let alone the second.

We can find plenty of advice on how to cope with recent events: Get used to it. It’s the world we live in. Protest. Resist. Find the benefit of the doubt. Prepare for the worst. Rise up. Prepare for a bright future. Take a hard look at higher education in America. And everything in between. I’ve been trying to think of what to do myself. The college’s Executive Committee discussed what we did right and what we did wrong on that November 28 Monday morning at Ohio State, and I have had similar conversations across campus. I told the provost he needed a big hug and gave him one. I’ve donated money to organizations for the first time. I’m seeking community activities and political engagement. I’m reaching out to people across The Ohio State campus who were more affected than we were. I’m finding a kinder voice, a universally more welcoming demeanor, and a wider open door.

What I know is that we should focus on the work and values that matter to us. Our faculty train optometrists and generate and

disseminate new research knowledge. Our students learn to provide the country's eye care. We strive for excellence. We will all find our way on each fresh morning and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karla Zadnik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Karla Zadnik, ASCO President

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## ASCO Represented at Global Forum Workshop

ASCO is proud to be a sponsor of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education. The Global Forum brings together organizations and institutions with common interests in health professional education to explore issues related to educating future healthcare workers and preparing them to provide care in multidisciplinary, collaborative settings.

In October 2016, Dr. Elizabeth Hoppe, ASCO Secretary-Treasurer and Founding Dean of Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry, and Dawn Mancuso, ASCO Executive Director, attended the Global Forum's "Future Financing of Health Professional Education: A Workshop." The objective of the workshop was to explore the evidence, assumptions, tensions, potential benefits, and challenges to financing health professional education (HPE) and the levers and drivers that influence the cost of HPE. More information about the workshop, including links to video and slide presentations, can be found [online](#).

The next workshop of the Global Forum, "Exploring a Business Case for High-Value Continuing Professional Development," will be held in April 2017.

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## 2015-2016 Faculty Data Report Released

ASCO's recently released its Academic Year 2015-2016 Annual Faculty Data Report. The total number of 1.0 FTE faculty at the 21 member institutions enrolling students during 2015-2016 increased 0.6% compared with the previous year, from 712 to 716. In addition, 46.4% of 1.0 FTE faculty members are male and 53.6% are female. The number of male 1.0 FTE faculty members decreased 1.8%, and the number of 1.0 FTE female faculty members increased 2.7%. The report was made available to the deans and presidents of ASCO's member schools and colleges in November 2016.

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](#). To ask questions about the report, [e-mail Joanne Zuckerman](#), ASCO's Manager of Data Services and Special Projects.

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## Applicant, Entering Class, Post-Graduate Data Available Online

ASCO's "Profile of Applicants to OD Degree Programs for Fall 2016 Entering Class" is now available on the Association's website. [This report](#) lists the numbers of male and female applicants, the numbers of applicants who were in-state, out-of-state or from a foreign country, applicants' average GPA and average Optometry Admission Test score, as well as other data. "Profile of the 2016 Optometry Entering Class" provides similar information and can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Also available at the [ASCO website](#) are two reports on graduate (non-OD) and other programs for academic year 2016-2017.

Questions about any of these reports should be e-mailed to [Joanne Zuckerman](#), ASCO's Manager of Data Services and Special Programs.

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## ASCO Board of Directors Convenes in Anaheim, Calif.

The ASCO Board of Directors held its winter meeting on Nov. 8, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif. ASCO President Dr. Karla Zadnik opened the daylong meeting, which included discussions about future Board of Directors meeting topics and the recent meeting of the Inter-Organizational Communications and Cooperation Committee; requests for nominations of individuals to serve on the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) and for the National Optometry Hall of Fame; a request for faculty liaisons to the Optometric Historical Society; and a dialogue on continuing education accreditation.

Additional meeting highlights:

- group activity regarding the [ASCO Strategic Plan](#)
- decision to enter into an extension of the Association's lease for office space at its current location
- discussion on ASCO member institutional data and how ASCO will continue reporting information to the public and its institutions
- working lunch and discussion of the [Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education](#)
- approval to add a representative from the American Academy of Optometry to the Joint Project Team on Further Developing a Robust, Diverse, and Highly Qualified National Applicant Pool
- hands-on tutorial for the Board of Directors on ASCO Connect, ASCO's online community designed for knowledge exchange, content curation, idea incubation and professional networking
- approval of a set of institutional metrics to recommend to the NBEO
- presentation from the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) and a discussion about how ASCO and the AOSA can best work together
- reports from ASCO committees and task forces

The ASCO Board of Directors' next meeting will be March 17-18, 2017, in Santa Fe, N.M.



Back row (left to right):

Dr. Melissa Trego (Salus/PCO), Dr. Sunny M. Sanders (CCO), Dr. Andrew Buzzelli (KYCO), Dr. Jennifer Coyle (Past-President, PUCO), Dr. David A. Heath (SUNY), Dr. Kelly Nichols (UABSO), Dr. Arol R. Augsburger (ICO), Dr. David A. Damari (President-Elect, MCO), Dr. Douglas K. Penisten (NSUOCO), Dr. Lewis Reich (SCO), Dr. Donald Jarnagin (AZCOPT), Dr. Karla Zadnik (President, OSU), Dr. Roger Boltz (not on Board), Dr. Clifford Scott (NECO).  
Front row (left to right): Dr. Stanley Woo (SCCOMBKU), Dawn Mancuso, (Executive Director), Dr. Andres Pagan (IAUPR), Dr. Joseph A. Bonanno (IUSO), Dr. Timothy Wingert (UIWRSO), Dr. John Flanagan (At-Large Member, UCB).  
Not pictured: Dr. Elizabeth Hoppe (Secretary-Treasurer, WUCO), Dr. Earl Smith (UHCO), Dr. David S. Loshin (NSU), Dr. Larry J. Davis (UMSL), Dr. Morris Berman (MCPHS).

## **ASCO Participates in Health Professions Week**

ASCO was among 19 organizations that collaborated to create an inaugural Health Professions Week (HPW) Sept. 26-30, 2016. The free week-long event provided more than 4,000 high school students, college students, counselors and advisors with interactive opportunities to explore health-related education programs and careers. HPW included an online treasure hunt, on-campus events and two virtual fairs.

Discussions are under way for Health Professions Week 2017. For more information about HPW, [e-mail Paige Pence](#), ASCO's Director of Student and Residency Affairs.

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## ASCO President Helps Educate Public about Contact Lenses



ASCO President Dr. Karla Zadnik, left, talks about contact lens use with radio talk show host Ann Fisher on WOSU 89.7 in Ohio.

In August 2016, ASCO President Dr. Karla Zadnik appeared on *All Sides with Ann Fisher*, a public affairs radio talk show broadcast by WOSU 89.7 NPR News in Ohio. Dr. Zadnik's discussion with Fisher coincided with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Contacts Lens Health Week.

Dr. Zadnik explained the differences between the various contact lens modalities, including daily disposable vs. monthly replacement and options for presbyopes. She emphasized how important it is for patients to work with an eyecare professional who can help them decide which vision correction option is best for them: spectacles, contact lenses or refractive surgery.

Dr. Zadnik also emphasized the importance of proper lens wear and care in preventing eye infections and ocular damage. Visit [WOSU Radio's website](#) to hear the entire interview.

## ASCO's Strategic Plan Update in Progress

The past several months have seen tremendous progress in the development of ASCO's new Strategic Plan. This progress was reported by ASCO's Executive Director, Dawn Mancuso, during the [Board meeting](#) on Nov. 8, 2016.

The Strategic Planning Committee, led by ASCO President Dr. Karla Zadnik (OSU) and including Dr. Jenny Coyle (PUCO), Dr. David Damari (MCO), Dr. Larry Davis (UMSL), Dr. David Heath (SUNY), and Dr. Lewis Reich (SCO), continues to oversee and guide the process, which is intended to provide as much opportunity as possible for input from ASCO volunteers.

During the summer, ASCO staff met to brainstorm around the measurable results, strategies and tactics for each of ASCO's draft **Strategic Objectives**. The **Strategic Objectives** are:

- develop a highly qualified, diverse applicant pool
- establish and promote leadership development programs for all levels for faculty, administrators, residents and students
- serve as the primary resource and leading voice for optometric education
- facilitate inter-institutional and interprofessional collaboration
- enhance systems to assure effective governance, responsible resource allocation and an appropriate infrastructure

The Strategic Objectives resulted from ASCO's **Core Values** (revised in September):

- leadership
- inclusion
- innovation
- integrity

More progress on the Plan includes:

- refinement of ASCO's **Mission Statement**, currently drafted as:

*The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) advances optometric education and research to enhance the health and well-being of the public, with the recommended descriptive paragraph: The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) accomplishes this mission through collaboration with educators, administrators, students, industry, government, health care organizations, and other stakeholders through its education, research, advocacy and development activities, in order to nurture robust, forward-thinking, and evidence-based optometric education and research*

- drafting ASCO's first **Vision Statement**, currently drafted as: *Focusing Optometry's Future*, with the recommended descriptive paragraph: *The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) serves as a catalyst for the advancement of optometry. ASCO member schools and colleges provide the best education, conduct the most innovative research, and attract and graduate the highest quality professionals who reflect the diversity of the population we serve. Our graduates go on to serve as doctors of optometry, researchers, educators, collaborators, and leaders in the health care community.*

The next steps in the strategic planning will be to:

- finalize the Mission Statement, Mission Statement Description, Vision Statement, Vision Statement Description, Core Values and Key Strategic Objectives
- work with lead committees and SIGs to draft measurable results and to engage in a brainstorming exercise around strategies and tactics for each strategic goal
- engage stakeholders in a prioritization exercise around measurable results
- conduct a cultural assessment of ASCO today and identify what organizational/infrastructure changes need to be made to fulfill stated objectives

**Please share additional ideas, suggestions or comments with ASCO's Strategic Planning Committee and ASCO's Executive Director Dawn Mancuso via email to [dmancuso@opted.org](mailto:dmancuso@opted.org).** Ongoing progress on the Strategic Plan will be featured in future issues of *Eye on Education*.

## Chief Academic Officers Meet to Discuss Several Topics



Dr. Fraser Horn

ASCO's Chief Academic Officers group — administrators from all member optometry schools and colleges who address issues that advance common concerns — met on Nov. 11, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif. Dr. Fraser Horn (PUCO) chaired the meeting, which included a strategic planning update from ASCO Executive Director Dawn Mancuso, a corporate contributor presentation from Alcon's Tom Duchardt, an update on the upcoming Summer Institute for Faculty Development (SIFD) program from SIFD Co-Chairs Dr. Tiffenie Harris (WUCO) and Dr. Janice Scharre (Salus/PCO), and an update on the upcoming Future Faculty Program (FFP) from FFP Co-Chairs Dr. Joan Portello (SUNY) and Dr. Jeff Walline (OSU).

The group discussed several other topics, including curriculum management: balancing new with classic information, new pedagogical approaches, curriculum mapping, student recruitment and retention, and online testing. The Chief Academic Officers will meet again on June 19, 2017, in Washington, D.C. For more information, [e-mail LaShawn Sidbury](mailto:LaShawn.Sidbury@asco.org), ASCO's Director of Meetings and Special Interest Groups.

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## **Free Printed Materials Available from the National Eye Health Education Program**

The National Eye Health Education Program has generously provided some of its printed materials to be distributed to ASCO member schools, clinics, SIGs, etc. The materials are free, but your institution pays for shipping (via FedEx). Materials available are:

- Diabetic Eye Disease – An Educators Guide (English version), minimum 44 per box
- Diabetic Eye Disease – An Educators Guide (Spanish version), minimum 44 per box

Diabetic Eye Disease: An Educator's Guide is a patient education tool for health professionals and community-based educators who work with people who have diabetes. The desktop flipchart contains discussion-guiding text and illustrations to show to patients.

If you're interested in receiving materials, [fill out the order form](#) and e-mail it to [Kimberly O'Sullivan](#).

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## Funding Secured for Future Online Clinical Educators Forums

The ASCO Clinical Affairs Committee (CAC) is pleased to announce that its Online Clinical Educators Forum (OCEF) has received generous support for 2017 and 2018. The ASCO Clinic Directors/Administrators (CD/A) SIG confirmed that it will provide funding in the amount of \$20,000.

The CAC conducted the first OCEF in April 2015. The event reached more than 150 registered clinical faculty and many additional attendees who participated in group viewing settings at ASCO's schools and colleges. The second OCEF was held in June 2016 and reached more than 180 clinical faculty. Both programs were developed by the OCEF planning group under the direction of then CAC Chair Dr. Donald Jamagin (AZCOPT) and assisted technically by the State University of New York College of Optometry's IT department via WebEx.

Dr. David Damari (MCO), 2016-17 Chair of the CAC, members of the CAC, and additional planning group members who are active in the CD/A SIG will meet in mid-January 2017 to plan the 2017 OCEF. The goal of this clinical education professional development effort is to enable participants to:

- develop relationships with other faculty who have similar interests to allow for personal enrichment and to provide insights that can be conveyed back to institutions
- explore collaborative efforts in clinical research and clinic procedure development
- share best practices

The OCEF supports the CAC's objective of identifying ways for schools and colleges of optometry to informally share expertise and resources in clinical education, services, research and administration. For more information, [e-mail Carol Brubaker](#), ASCO's Manager of Professional Affairs.

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## Get Involved in the Inspiring Future ODs Program

ASCO's Inspiring Future ODs program is a practitioner-based career marketing effort that encourages Doctors of Optometry to speak to their patients and other qualified young people about optometry as a rewarding future career. This program is part of the ASCO-American Optometric Association Applicant Development Project on Further Developing a Robust, Diverse and Highly Qualified National Applicant Pool.

According to ASCO data, Doctors of Optometry are the profession's best promoters. If you have a patient in your office or know of any other young person you think could contribute to and benefit from the profession of optometry, consider assisting that person in gaining further insight and information about this fulfilling career choice. ASCO is pleased to offer free materials that will help start the conversation in your office or your community. More information can be found by visiting the [Inspiring Future ODs website](#) or by e-mailing [Paige Pence](#), ASCO's Director of Student and Residency Affairs.

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## New Cultural Competency Resource

ASCO's Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee (DCCC) recently posted a new online resource, [Case Studies in Cultural Competency](#). This downloadable compendium of case studies is available at no charge to faculty, students and other interested individuals at ASCO member schools and colleges. It contains the winning and best case studies from two years' worth of entries submitted to the ASCO Cultural Competency Case Study Competition for Students and Residents.

For those wanting to incorporate cultural competency into their teaching and clinical efforts, the compendium is a must-have tool. Each case study describes an actual patient-based encounter and offers details regarding patient-centered attitude, knowledge and skills as well as the dilemma or circumstance pertaining to cultural awareness/competency, how the situation was handled, and what was learned from it. Case discussion questions are also included in the document.

In 2014 the DCCC launched the ASCO Cultural Competency Case Study Competition for Students and Residents with the goal of receiving case studies that could be utilized during cultural competency curriculum guidelines implementation workshops and by all optometric educators. Generous funding of the DCCC's cultural competency efforts from Walmart over the past several years covered the monetary awards presented to winners of the competition and the editing and formatting of the case studies.

The DCCC is working on building a resource list to be added to the Case Studies in Cultural Competency document and will follow-up with ASCO schools and colleges to ascertain how the document is being utilized.

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## Optometry Programs Admissions Directory Opens

A new directory of Doctor of Optometry programs is now open to the public and can be [accessed directly](#) or from the top of the [ASCO website](#). The Optometry Programs Admissions Directory allows prospective students, advisors and others interested in optometry programs to search by region, state, degrees offered and other factors in order to find a program that meets their needs. Each school provides its own up-to-the-minute information that appears in the listings, which include characteristics of the OD programs, admission requirements, selection factors, deadlines, deposit information, a profile of a recent entering class and more. The directory home page also provides links to more general information about optometry admissions and a career in optometry as well as to the Optometry Centralized Application Service (OptomCAS). For more information about the directory, [e-mail Joanne Zuckerman](#), ASCO's Manager of Data Services and Special Projects.

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## Optometry Residency Match is Now Open



National Matching Services Inc.

ASCO's Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch) opened for applications on Oct. 5, 2016. ORMatch, facilitated by National Matching Services Inc., is an application service and match that places applicants into optometry residency training positions based on a mutual ranking algorithm. For 2017, 235 programs with 437 available positions are participating. The match results will be released to applicants and programs on March 6, 2017.

For more information, including important program deadlines, visit the [ORMatch website](#) or [e-mail Paige Pence](#), ASCO's Director of Student and Residency Affairs.

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## Optometry Virtual Fairs Continue to be Popular

ASCO sponsored its seventh Optometry Virtual Fair on Nov. 2, 2016. All 23 schools and colleges of optometry participated, 643 prospective students registered and 367 of them chatted live online with school and college representatives.

Virtual fairs are part of the ASCO-American Optometric Association Project on Further Developing a Robust, Diverse, and Highly Qualified National Applicant Pool. The fairs, along with the profession of optometry, are promoted through a major e-mail campaign aimed at prospective students, pre-optometry clubs and health professions advisors. They provide a convenient platform for asking questions about the profession, the OptomCAS application and school-specific requirements.

The next virtual fair will be held on June 14, 2017. For questions or more information, [e-mail Paige Pence](#), ASCO's Director of Student and Residency Affairs.

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## Summer Institute for Faculty Development Now Accepting Applications

ASCO's seventh biennial Summer Institute for Faculty Development (SIFD) will be held July 9-12, 2017, at the Eric P. Newman Education Center of Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis. [Applications to attend SIFD](#) are now being accepted and are due no later than Jan. 8, 2017. All applications must be approved by the dean/president of the applicant's institution prior to submission to ASCO. While up to two applicants from each school and college of optometry will be selected to participate in the program, institutions are encouraged to submit additional applicants.

Dr. Tiffenie Harris (WUCO) and Dr. Janice Scharre (Salus/PCO) co-chair the program. The goal of the SIFD is to promote increased retention of faculty in the schools and colleges of optometry while providing participants with an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance their success in an optometric academic environment as career-long, productive faculty members. The targeted participants are individuals who have been full-time faculty members for more than two but less than 10 years.

The SIFD supports one of ASCO's strategic objectives, which is faculty promotion and development. Program participants meet with assigned faculty mentors and attend various sessions and workshops covering topics related to teaching, learning, scholarship and academic culture. The topic of research has been added recently to the program.

For more information, e-mail [LaShawn Sidbury](#), ASCO's Director of Meetings and Special Interest Groups, or call her at (301) 231-5944 ext. 3012.

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## Trends Data Now Available on ASCO Website

New graphs tracking trends in student and faculty data over time are now available on the ASCO website. Graphs include changes in enrollment by gender and race/ethnicity, number of graduates by race/ethnicity, average direct cost of attending Doctor of Optometry programs and degrees earned by faculty by rank and gender. Additional trends tables and graphs continue to be developed in the areas of admissions, financial aid and residencies and will be posted as they are completed.

The compilation of key metrics trend data was endorsed by the ASCO Board of Directors in 2015 in order to provide more complete information to the Association's members and to the public about optometric education as a whole, and to provide benchmark data for the use of member schools and colleges.

[Click here](#) to see the trends tables developed to date. For more information, [e-mail Joanne Zuckerman](#), ASCO's Manager of Data Services and Special Projects.

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## Tune into the Latest ASCO Podcasts

Are you up-to-date with the ASCO Podcast Series? Check out the two most recently produced installments:

- Hayley Barber, Miss Alabama 2016 and Miss America 2017 contestant, talks about why she plans to apply to optometry school and Sight for Small Eyes, the organization she created to raise awareness about the importance of comprehensive eye examinations at a young age. Sight for Small Eyes is partnered with optometrists and several organizations to raise funds for Sight Savers America as well as provide children with free vision screenings. Barber has also written a legislative bill, sponsored by Alabama State Sen. Cam Ward, that would require children in the state of Alabama to have a comprehensive eye examination before entering public or private kindergarten.
- Student wellness expert Dr. Jonathan Peretz discusses the nature of stress and what students can do to combat it in order to safeguard their physical, mental and spiritual health. As students deal with the “mountain of demands” placed upon them, he says, stress can manifest in a number of ways, including physical, emotional, cognitive and behavioral. Dr. Peretz explains that while a little bit of stress is good, for motivation, for example, acute and chronic stress above that level are associated with health problems. He talks about the benefits for students of adopting a mindset in which taking time for mindfulness, proper nutrition, exercise, pursuing fulfilling activities and spending time with those who make them happy is just as important as whatever work needs to be done.

To tune into these and other podcasts, [visit the podcast page](#).

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## Annual Student Scholarship Competition Returns



It's time to start thinking about the 2016-2017 Walmart and Sam's Club Health and Wellness optometry scholarship competition, Project Foresight. Project Foresight is a national student competition that highlights the vision of Walmart and Sam's Club Health and Wellness to provide quality, affordable, accessible health care for everyone. This year's contestants will present on how they envision the future of the Walmart/optometry partnership.

Project Foresight is open to all students at ASCO member institutions who are first- through third-year students during the 2016-2017 academic year. Via a process that begins soon, eight two-member teams are selected to compete in the final round of the contest, which will take place during Optometry's Meeting in Washington, D.C., in June 2017. Each team selected for the final round receives a team scholarship of \$1,500 and a \$1,500 grant for traveling to the competition. The winner of the national contest receives a \$15,000 team scholarship and traveling trophy. The runner-up receives a \$5,000 team scholarship.

To request an entry form, [e-mail Dr. Ramon Yalldo](#), Regional Talent Specialist & Campus Relations Manager.

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## Company Co-Develops Contact Lens Recycling Program

### **BAUSCH + LOMB**

Bausch + Lomb launched the ONE by ONE recycling program, which encourages consumers to help preserve the environment by taking ONE action at a time to ONE day achieve a greener future where even contact lenses can play a role. With the program, co-developed with [TerraCycle](#), patients can recycle their used Bausch + Lomb contact lenses and blister packs.

Contact lens wearers collect their used blister packs, top foil and lenses in a small cardboard box. When the box is full, they print out a free ONE by ONE shipping label and either take the box to any UPS location or ship it from home. The box goes to TerraCycle to be recycled properly.

Learn more about the Bausch + Lomb ONE by ONE program [here](#).

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## Customer Suggestions Helped Craft New Trial Frame



Oculus has introduced a new Universal Trial Frame, the UB 6, which is designed to be lighter, trendier, simpler and more comfortable for patients and doctors. Because the frame has 12 total slots for trial lenses (six for each side, four in front, and two behind), fine adjustment with sphere or refraction with circular/linear polarizing filters is easier to carry out.

The UB 6 has the unique feature of gradation of the axis scales at 2.5° intervals, which is easy to read even in dark rooms. The UB 6 nose bridge can be adjusted in height and angle, and the nose piece is anatomically formed for better distribution of pressure. Both the thumb wheel for adjustment and the earpieces have been improved. All Oculus trial and special lenses in standard size 38-mm diameter are compatible with the UB 6.

For further information, contact a local Oculus distributor or visit the [Oculus website](#).

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## New Initiative Targets Emerging Leaders in Optical Industry



The Vision Council Board of Directors unanimously approved the formation of the Emerging Optical Leaders Committee, which is tasked with identifying and developing the next generation of optical industry leaders for The Vision Council.

Potential members of the Emerging Optical Leaders Committee must be employed by an organization in good standing as a member of The Vision Council, currently hold or be on track for an executive level role in 3-5 years, be age 35 or younger (may move to Alumni Advisor role at 40) and be nominated by a senior executive within their company.

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the committee will utilize mentoring, training and networking opportunities to enrich the value emerging leaders bring to their companies and the optical industry at large. An inaugural leadership team, chaired by Ryan Kirkpatrick of Shwood Ltd., has been established for the committee, and a scholarship program has been created to connect emerging optical leaders with established industry leaders at the 2017 Executive Summit.

Members of the industry interested in joining the Emerging Optical Leaders Committee, or those looking for more information on nominating a scholarship recipient, can [e-mail Renae Shepherd](mailto:Renae.Shepherd@visioncouncil.org), The Vision Council's Senior Director of Meetings and Education.

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## New Instrument Tables More Practical Than Ever



Topcon Medical Systems has introduced a new series of adjustable instrument tables designed to maximize patient comfort and office space.

The new AIT-W1 and AIT-W2 Adjustable Instrument Tables can be placed flush against a wall and accessed from the front and both sides, providing wheelchair accessibility, saving space, and facilitating the use of ophthalmic instruments. The tables come fully assembled and can hold instruments up to 300 lbs. The tables' elevation mechanism is controlled from an illuminated touch panel and enables preset levels. The AIT-W1 and AIT-W2 come standard with the Anti-Collision system, which stops down movement if the table comes in contact with the patient's legs.

For more information on the AIT-W tables or Topcon in general, [visit the website](#).

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## New Monthly Replacement Contact Lens Option



Air Optix plus HydraGlyde is the newest addition to Alcon's Air Optix portfolio of monthly replacement contact lenses. Air Optix plus HydraGlyde contact lenses merge two unique technologies: SmartShield, which is designed for excellent deposit resistance, and HydraGlyde Moisture Matrix, which aims to deliver longer-lasting lens surface moisture.

The new lenses are expected to be available to U.S. patients in late February 2017 in a power range of +8.00D to -12.00D. The Air Optix family of monthly replacement contact lenses includes a variety of options including clear and color, overnight and flexible wear, toric and multifocal. For more information, [click here](#).

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## New Photochromics Video Learning Library



Transitions Optical Inc. has released a new series of educational videos to help eyecare professionals learn more about the Transitions family of brands, the technology behind them, and what types of patients can benefit from them.

The video series includes 12 short episodes, each focusing on a different topic: Signature VII lenses, how photochromics work, blue light, top photochromic questions, midtint, looking good, kids, myths and misperceptions, millennial mindset, XTRActive lenses, Drivewear lenses, and Vantage lenses.

Each episode is accompanied by a one-page activity guide that reinforces key information presented in the videos and gives insight on how eyecare professionals can apply what they learned.

[Click here](#) to access the learning library videos.

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## New Slit Lamp Offers Lower Illumination and Flexible Features



The new Z Series slit lamp from Keeler is a lower illumination system that also offers flexible features and options for comprehensive examination of the anterior and posterior segments. According to the company, the Z series is the only slit lamp currently available with a 1-mm square aperture and 14-mm variable slit width. In addition, manual adjustment of both slit length and width, choice of binocular type and magnification range, and full digital upgrade are possible.

The Z Series provides a wide range of apertures, both manual and preset, for quick adaptation to a range of exam needs. Slit angle can be continually adjusted 360°, and blue, red-free, clear and neutral density filters are included. A flip-up diffuser provides good visualization of the whole eye at low magnification, and a yellow barrier filter is included for detection of subtle corneal staining.

For more information, visit the [Keeler website](#), [send an e-mail](#), call (800) 523-5620, or contact an authorized dealer.

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## Opportunities for Students and Student Organizations



Because it believes that everyone deserves to see their best to live their best, National Vision supports mission trips through chapters of Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH) at the schools and colleges of optometry. National Vision provides \$1,000 per school each year to help with the costs of going on mission trips. In addition, anyone going on a mission trip can request a glasses pack of 300 readers and 100 sunglasses that will be provided at no cost. Find more information [here](#), or by e-mailing [Kristen Reynolds](#) or calling her at (470) 448-2139.

National Vision also has a grant program through which third- and fourth-year optometry students compete for a \$5,000 grand prize. For the 2016-2017 program, entrants must write a 500-word essay or create a short video sharing their perspectives on the impact of technology on the field of optometry in the past and how it will influence their future careers as optometrists. Submissions are due by January 31, 2017. Additional information and entry requirement details can be found in the [student section](#) of the company's website. All questions regarding the program should be [e-mailed to Carly Schenck](#).

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## HOYA to Acquire 3M Business Unit



On Dec. 6, 2016, HOYA Vision Care announced a definitive agreement to acquire the safety prescription eyewear business of 3M. The safety prescription eyewear business has more than 90 years of experience in North America and provides HOYA with a comprehensive line of frames, prescription lenses and premium coating options. The business also provides safety prescription eyewear or frames in Latin America, Europe and Asia.

HOYA says the acquisition will enable it to provide business and industrial customers as well as consumers with a strong global safety prescription eyewear protection solution. Find more information in the recent [press release](#).

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## SIG News

### Binocular Vision and Perception Educators

**Met:** Nov. 11, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chair:** Dr. Christina Esposito (AZCOPT)

**Actions:** Dr. Alicia Feis (AZCOPT) to be chair beginning in 2018

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** collecting input for finalization of binocular vision/pediatric competencies for optometry school graduates ... curriculum/sequence review of the pediatrics/binocular vision/strabismus courses at different schools ... consideration of a summer SIG meeting

### Biomedical Science Educators

**Met:** November 11, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chair:** Dr. Jan Bergmanson (UHCO)

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** needs of the SIG in teaching resources, images and texts ... subgroups in the SIG? ... communication through the ASCO network ... NBEO subject outlines and general transparency ... strategic planning update: ASCO



Members of the Clinical Directors/Administrators SIG during their September 2016 meeting.

### Clinical Directors/Administrators

**Met:** Sept. 22-24, 2016, in Berkeley, Calif.

**Chair:** Dr. Christina Wilmer (UCB)

**Actions:** Dr. Nicky Holdeman (UHCO) delivered the Dr. Lester Caplan Honorary Lecture: reflections, musings and observations from 27 years as a clinic director

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** how to work with millennials: Lisa Feldman (UC Berkeley Haas School of Business) ... enhancing optometric education through industry-provided resources with moderator Dr. Charissa Lee (Johnson & Johnson Vision Care) and panelists Al Brooks (Topcon Medical Systems), Dr. Darin Closson (Walmart) and Dr. John Lahr (EyeMed Vision Care) ... successes and failures in the optometry clinic: Dr. Greg Nixon (OSU), Dr. Carole Timpone (PUCO) and Rob Herrick (UCB) ... branding your practice in a convenience-driven society: Rebecca Andersen (UCB School of Information) ... leadership excellence: an opportunity for optometric excellence: Dr. Frank Schultz (UCB Haas School of Business)

**Sponsors:** Optos, RevolutionEHR, Topcon Medical Systems, Nidek, Walmart, Alcon, Haag-Streit USA, Nidek, Carl Zeiss Meditec, Volk Optical Inc., Keeler Instruments, Transitions Optical, Marco/Eye Designs, Hoya Vision Care, Eye Med Vision Care, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, M&S Technologies, Heine, VSP Global, Shire Pharmaceuticals, Compulink Business Systems, Allergan Eye Care, Bausch + Lomb, Essilor of America, Oculus

### Clinical Optometric Methods & Procedures Instructors

**Met:** Nov. 8, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chairs:** Dr. Laura Falco (SUNY) and Dr. Joan Portello (SUNY)

**Actions:** Dr. Falco and Dr. Portello to remain chairs for next year

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** NBEO plans for the future, pass rates, injection pitfalls: Dr. Lyndon Wong, NBEO Director of Clinical Skills Testing ... progress with the Eyesi Indirect Ophthalmoscope simulator: Dr. Heather Anderson (UHCO) ... lab assessments, station by station, how does your program do it?: SUNY: Dr. Portello; IUSO: Dr. Richard Meetz; NECO: Dr. Bina Patel; SCCOMBKU: Dr. Cathie Heyman; Salus/PCO: Dr. Helene Kaiser; OSU: Dr. Dawn Goedde

**Sponsors:** Keeler and Heine

**Continuing Education Directors**

**Met:** Nov. 11, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chairs:** Dr. Elizabeth Grantner (ICO), Betshally Torres (SUNY)

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** COPE changes/COPE changes Q&A ... adopting technology ... online CE [platforms, recording techniques, World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA), etc.] ... negotiating contracts (speakers, venues, partnerships, etc.) ... destination CE programs best practices

**Sponsor:** Alcon



Members of the Development Directors SIG during their September 2016 meeting.

**Development Directors**

**Met:** Nov. 10, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chairs:** Connie Scavuzzo (ICO), Chair; Erika Bernal (SCCOMBKU), Chair-Elect; Andrea Carthew (UWSOVS), Immediate Past Chair

**Actions:** appointment of Bernal as Chair, Dr. Maryke Neiberg (CCO) as Chair-Elect, and Scavuzzo as Immediate Past Chair

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** The Artful Asker: Marcy Heim

**Sponsors:** Allergan, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Luxottica, National Vision, Vision Service Plan, Walmart

**Educational Technology**

**Met:** Nov. 11, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chair:** Dr. Dean Swick (SCO)

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** information security discussion led by Dr. Swick ... demonstration of new collaboration tools: ASCO ... roundtable discussions, including ExamSoft, e-books ... strategic planning: ASCO

**Ethics Educators**

**Met:** Nov. 10, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chair:** Dr. Paula McDowell (MCO)

**Actions:** Dr. Melissa Suckow (CCO) elected Vice-Chair

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** optometric ethics education, a faculty survey: Dr. James Miller (MCO) ... how to improve ethics education within each optometry school ... ASCO strategic plan update: ASCO Executive Director Dawn Mancuso

**Externship Directors SIG**

**Met:** Sept. 22, 2016, in Berkeley Calif.

**Chairs:** Cheryl Ervin (SCO) and Dr. Harue Marsden (SCCOMBKU)

**Actions:** helped develop ASCO's upcoming externship director survey

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** creation of a working group to look into cooperating on site visits for externship sites shared by multiple optometric programs ... 2017 ACOE accreditation standards and how they affect optometry externship programs: Dr. Bart Campbell (ACOE) and Joyce Urbeck (ACOE) ... updates on ASCOConnect and ASCO strategic planning ... U.S. Veterans Administration update: Dr. John Townsend ... U.S. Navy update: Dr. Kevin Jackson and Dr. Matt Horner ...

Indian Health Service update: Dr. Pam Conrad ... how to work with millennials: Lisa Feldman (UCB Haas School of Business) ... leadership excellence: Frank Schultz (UCB Haas School of Business)

**Sponsors:** Alcon, Allergan

### **International Optometric Educators**

**Met:** Nov. 11, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chair:** Dr. Hector Santiago (IAUPR)

**Actions:** election of IOE SIG Chair Dr. Marcela Frazier (IAUPR)

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** VOSH Update: Dr. Ellen Weiss and Dr. Greg Pearl ... progress report, Latin American region: Dr. Hugo Farhat, President, Latin American Association of Optometry and Optics ... progress report, European region: Peter Gumpelmayer, Vice-President, European Council of Optometry and Optics ... WCO Education Committee update: Dr. Gerald Lowther ... Brien Holden Institute update: Dr. Luigi Bilotto

**Sponsor:** Alcon

### **Low Vision Educators**

**Met:** Nov. 10, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chair:** Dr. Sharon Lee (NSU)

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** new wearable electronic magnification technology by Iris Vision/Visionize: Ammad Khan and Dr. Frank Werblin ... ASCO strategic planning update: ASCO Executive Director Dawn Mancuso ... progress on low vision iBook ... research in the field of ADHD and low vision: Dr. Dawn DeCarlo (UAB)

**Next Summer Meeting:** July 13-15, 2017, at UMSL in St. Louis

### **Neuro-rehab Educators**

**Met:** Nov. 8 and Nov. 10, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chairs:** Dr. Valerie Wren (WUCO), Chair, and Dr. Surbhi Bansal (UCB), Chair-Elect

**Actions:** decision to use ASCOConnect as main online collaboration tool for sharing curricular ideas, maintaining discussion topics, and contributing clinical cases for student learning ... teleconference planned regarding Delphi survey to reach consensus on entry-level clinical competencies in neuro-optometric rehabilitation

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** review of concepts around writing learning objectives and creation of a writing group to further organize and define student learning objectives ... ASCO strategic plan review and feedback: Dr. Larry Davis (UMSL)

**Sponsor:** Chadwick Optical

### **Public Health Educators**

**Met:** Nov. 10, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chairs:** Incoming Chair, Dr. Janet Leasher (NSU); Chair Elect, Dr.

Mordichai Soroka (SUNY); Immediate Past Chair, Dr. Patrick Yoshinaga (SCCOMBKU), Past Chair, Dr. Robert Kleinstein (UABSO)

**Actions:** approved public health and environmental vision core competencies and learning objectives document to be submitted to the ASCO Board ... Dr. Soroka elected as Chair-Elect

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** ASCO strategic planning: Dr. David Heath (SUNY) ... creating an online resource of public health content for educators ... recommending public health-related content for NBEO examinations

### **Residency Educators**

**Met:** Nov. 10, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

**Chairs:** Dr. Doug Hoffman (NECO) and Dr. David Loshin (NSU)

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** ASCO Residency Affairs Committee update: Dr. Loshin ... ORMatch update: Dr. Scott Slagle (VA) ... Accreditation Council on Optometric Education update: Dr. J. Bart Campbell ... AAO Residents Day update: Dr. Wesley DeRosier (Northeastern State) ... VA residencies update: Dr. John Townsend and Dr. Debbie Hettler ... ASCO remarks: ASCO President Dr. Karla Zadnik (OSU) ... subspecialization in low vision rehabilitation: Dr. Stanley Woo (SCCOMBKU) ... AOA membership update: Dr. Caroline Pate (UABSO) and Stacey Struckhoff

**Roundtable Discussions:** creating new external residencies (cost, curriculum, faculty, facilities, etc.) ... mandatory residencies pros and cons

**Sponsor:** Alcon

**Vision Science Librarians**

**Met:** Nov. 9-11, 2016, in Anaheim, Pomona and Fullerton, Calif.

**Chair:** Leslie Holland (SCO)

**Discussion Topics/Speaker Highlights:** NAEVR/AEVR: James Jorkasky ... bibliometrics: Gale Oren (University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center) ... assessment and metrics: Pamela Sieving, National Institutes of Health, and Bette Anton, University of California, Berkeley ... leadership plan discussion, looking ahead to 2017 and beyond ... NEI funding: optometric contributions to the literature 2000-2015: Sieving and Anton

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## Company Provides Multiple Resources for Optometry Practices

The role of optometrists in patient care continues to expand. In recognition of this trend, Allergan has been working closely with ODs nationwide to provide programs and resources aimed at helping them diversify their practices.

Learn about how these key resources from Allergan can help you:

- [Optometry Jumpstart](#)
  - [Allergan TechAlliance](#)
  - [The Allergan Optometry Facebook page](#)
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## Groups Partner to Send Optometry Students to OneSight Clinic in Tanzania

[Luxottica Retail N.A.](#) has partnered with the [American Optometric Student Association](#) (AOSA) to create a special [OneSight](#) clinic for optometry students in Tanzania May 5-13, 2017.



OneSight, a global non-profit organization founded and sponsored by Luxottica, has provided eye exams and glasses to more than 9 million people across 46 countries as part of its mission to eradicate the global vision crisis. This special OD clinic, created in partnership with AOSA and the [International Medical and Technological University](#) (IMTU) in Tanzania, will give students firsthand experience with the global vision crisis and a chance to work alongside a multinational team to help 2,500 patients in the Dar Es Salaam region.

For many years, Luxottica employees and affiliated doctors have given a deeper meaning to their work by volunteering their time and skills at one of many OneSight Vision Care Clinics in the most underserved areas around the world. With this clinic, Luxottica Retail will for the first time extend the opportunity to optometry students from across North America.

During the course of the one-week clinic, OD students will work under the supervision of licensed optometrists performing comprehensive eye exams. They will also help support a core team of Luxottica volunteers in the frame fitting, manufacturing and dispensing of eyewear. For the 25 students selected, Luxottica will cover expenses associated with the clinic, including airfare, accommodations and meals.

“Optometry students are an incredibly passionate group, particularly when it comes to social good; we know there is a lot they can bring to the OneSight experience,” said Dr. Jason Singh, Luxottica’s Chief Medical Officer. “This clinic is a rare opportunity for them to immerse themselves in an area that averages only one OD for every 200,000 people. For perspective, the United States has roughly one OD for every 7,000 people. The OD students will be working alongside top ODs using some of the industry’s leading technology and making a significant impact on thousands of lives.”

“The opportunity to partner with OneSight and Luxottica in bringing optical care to those with such great need is exactly the kind of opportunity OD students are eager to engage in,” says AOSA President Erick Henderson. “Giving back is a shared value of our student community. This vision clinic will certainly be a very powerful experience.”

Optometry students submitted their applications for the clinic through an online process that ran through mid-December 2016. A committee made up of the AOSA Board and American Optometric Association leaders is managing the selection process. The Tanzania clinic team members will be announced in February 2017.

## **AZCOPT Announces Administrative Appointments**

Two Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry (AZCOPT) faculty members were recently promoted.

Dr. Alicia Feis was appointed Associate Dean of Academic Affairs after serving as Assistant Dean since 2015. She is tasked with supervising all didactic education and curricular development at AZCOPT. Dr. Feis is a 2008 graduate of Southern California College of Optometry.

Dr. Kaila M. Osmotherly was named Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs. A 2010 graduate of the Pacific University College of Optometry, Dr. Osmotherly became an AZCOPT faculty member in 2011. Prior to being named Assistant Dean, she served as Assistant Director of Clinic Rotations. Dr. Osmotherly oversees clinical education and patient care at Midwestern University's Eye Institute.

## First Woman Elected Chair of ICO Board of Trustees



Dr. Karen Eng

For the first time in its 144-year history, the chairman of the Illinois College of Optometry's (ICO) Board of Trustees is a woman. Dr. Karen Eng, President and CEO of engineering and consulting firm CSMI, was elected in October 2016. She had been a board member for six years and succeeds Dr. Donovan Crouch.

In her career, Dr. Eng has focused much of her energy on promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education with girls and women. "I am extremely honored and excited to have the opportunity to serve as the chairman," said Dr. Eng. "We have been striving to build diversity on the board of trustees to represent our constituents, and I welcome the opportunity to champion this effort. My hope is to continue the strong leadership of the board of trustees, and to empower our next generation of optometrists."

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## **IUSO Launches Business of Eye Care Degree Program**

The Indiana University School of Optometry (IUSO) and Indiana University's Kelley School of Business have created a new MBA program that is custom made for the optometric profession. The Business of Eye Care Program offers multiple degree options, from a graduate level certificate to a full MBA degree with an emphasis on the business of eye care. The degree program is online so optometry students, practicing Doctors of Optometry and industry professionals can obtain a world-class business education that fits into their busy lives.

To learn more about the program, visit the [IUSO website](#).

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## KYCO wins Educational Technology Award



Kentucky College of Optometry students use interactive 3-D computers in the virtual reality lab on campus.

The University of Pikeville's information technology department and Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO) recently won the 2016 Innovational Educational Technology Award presented by the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities. The award recognizes the "Interactive 3-D Virtual Science Initiative," which has enabled students to utilize interactive 3-D technology to learn about complex concepts, including the most delicate intricacies of the eye and neurologic structures. Assistant Clinical Professor Dr. Donnie Akers has been working with virtual reality company ViziTech to create an immersive, virtual environment for delivering content in KYCO's classrooms and laboratories.



Dr. Gergana Deevska

**Also:** Dr. Gergana Deevska joined the KYCO faculty as an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry with a dual appointment at the university's Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine.

## NECO Holds Second Grand Rounds with Hospital in India



NECO's second grand rounds between Boston and Hyderabad, India.

On Oct. 26, 2016, the low vision department at New England College of Optometry (NECO) presented its second annual international grand rounds program in conjunction with the low vision department at LV Prasad Eye Hospital in Hyderabad, India. The presentation utilized real-time video conferencing to allow collaboration between students and practitioners in Boston and Hyderabad.

The 2016 program focused on pediatric low vision and featured presentations from Dr. Alexis Malkin and Dr. Nicole Ross from NECO and Dr. Deepak Bagga and Dr. Beula Christy from LV Prasad Eye Institute. Each of the four presenters discussed a pediatric low vision case and the team approach towards case management. Approximately 75 third-year students and faculty attended the event in Boston.

**Also:** Several NECO faculty members recently received awards. Dr. Bina Patel was named Humanitarian of the Year for 2016 by VOSH International. Dr. Fuensanta Vera-Diaz received the Scientific Research Career Development Award from the American Academy of Optometry, and Dr. Stacy Lyons received a Dr. Mae Booth-Jones Awards for Mentoring and Education from Women in Optometry.

## NSU Researchers Lead Key Diabetic Retinopathy Study



Dr. Janet Leasher

A paper published in the journal [Diabetes Care](#) provides global and regional estimates of the number of people who are blind or visually impaired due to diabetic retinopathy (DR). The global consortium that conducted the meta-analysis was led by researchers from Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry, including Professor Dr. Janet Leasher, and the Vision and Eye Care Unit at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, United Kingdom. The authors of the paper noted that such estimates are fundamental for health planning purposes, and they recommended public policy planning for regions most affected by DR. The study forms part of the broader research of the Global Vision Database, which seeks to estimate and report on the changes over time in the causes and prevalence of vision loss.

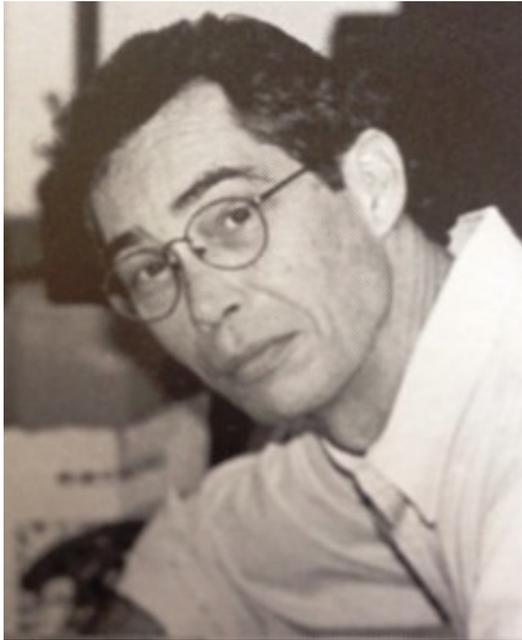
**Also:** NSU Professor Dr. Rachel A. "Stacey" Coulter received the American Academy of Optometry's Feinbloom Award, which recognizes an individual who has made a distinguished and significant contribution to clinical excellence and the direct clinical advancement of visual and optometric service and thus the visual enhancement of the public.



Dr. Rachel A. "Stacey" Coulter

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## Remembering UABSO's Dr. Clyde Oyster



Dr. Clyde Oyster

Dr. Clyde Oyster, who was among the first faculty members at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry (UABSO), passed away on Sept. 8, 2016.

According to UABSO, Dr. Oyster was revered as an outstanding teacher, pioneering retinal researcher and esteemed author. His textbook, "The Human Eye: Structure and Function," is considered a landmark publication and is still being used at schools and colleges of optometry. He and his wife, the late Dr. Ellen Takahashi, were instrumental in the early success of UABSO and the creation of the Vision Science Graduate Program.

Read more about Dr. Oyster at the [UABSO website](#). His obituary appears [here](#).



Dr. Jason Nichols

**Also:** UABSO researchers were awarded a \$1.9 million grant from the National Eye Institute to study dry eye. According to Dr. Jason Nichols, Professor and Assistant Vice President for Industry Research Development in the UAB Office of the Vice

President for Research and Economic Development, “The study will look at the lipid layer of the eye and the biochemical changes that cause dry eye. Once we understand these changes, we will be able to better treat the condition that affects up to 30 percent of the world.”

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## Salus University Graduates First Cohort of PhD Students

Salus University has graduated the first three students to complete its PhD/MSc research degree programs in biomedicine:

- Danielle Leong, OD, PhD (2016)
- Mitchell Scheiman, OD, PhD (2016)
- Michael Baertschi, MSc, PhD (2015)

The University established the degree programs in 2012. They're designed to be responsive to the professional growth and development needs in the disciplines of optometry, audiology, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, physician assistant studies, and rehabilitation and related fields. The PhD and MSc graduate research degree programs in biomedicine are distinct in that they're designed for working professionals. Students can remain embedded in their current community and professional positions while enrolled. Using this distributed training model, students take courses online and are linked to successful research laboratories with established mentors in their local communities.

The program was initiated to meet the growing need for faculty with PhD degrees both domestically and internationally and is an excellent opportunity for mid-level, full-time optometric faculty to obtain a PhD or MSc degree while maintaining their position at their current institution.

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## SCO Music Video Features Students, City of Memphis

Southern College of Optometry (SCO) premiered a fun new music video that showcases its students and expresses its gratitude for being part of the broader Memphis, Tenn., family. The video also pays homage to Memphis native Justin Timberlake, featuring his song “Can’t Stop the Feeling.”

Check out the video [here](#), and just so you know, you’ll probably feel like dancing.



SCO students in Memphis for the making of the new music video.

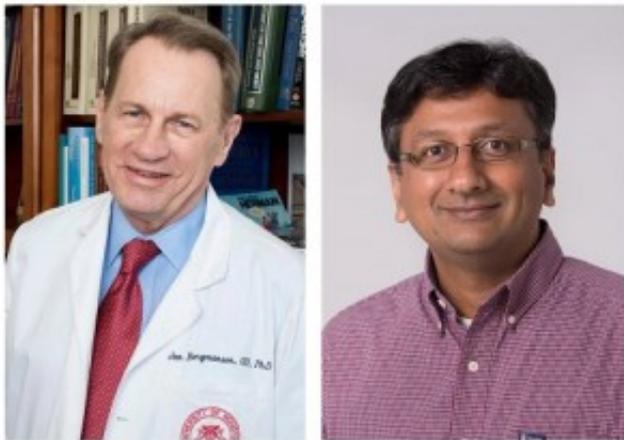
## SUNY Awarded Funds for Expansion, Virtual Reality Lab

New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently announced nearly \$2 million in NYSUNY 2020 awards for the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry. The awards will fund an expanded clinical care facility and a virtual reality simulation laboratory for providing state-of-the-art clinical education for high-quality patient care. "We must ensure that healthcare professionals have the best skills and training for a stronger, healthier New York," Cuomo said. "This funding will equip SUNY Optometry with state-of-the-art facilities with cutting-edge technology to support exceptional patient care and meet the needs of New Yorkers."

SUNY Optometry President Dr. David A. Heath commented, "Taken together, these two projects will support our 30 percent increase in enrollment while enhancing our educational, patient care and research programs. They will ultimately advance eye care for the evolving needs of the citizens of New York State. Thank you to Governor Cuomo for supporting our students, faculty, patients and staff with these NYSUNY 2020 awards."

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## UHCO Fills Named Professorships



Dr. Jan Bergmanson, left, and Dr. Vallabh Das.

The University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO) recently recognized two faculty members with appointments to new named professorships. Dr. Jan Bergmanson, Professor and Founding Director of the Texas Eye Research and Technology Center, holds the first Brien Holden Professorship, and Dr. Vallabh Das, Professor and Chair of the Department of Basic Sciences, is the first Benedict-Pitts Professor.

The Brien A. Holden Professorship Endowment supports a faculty member who exemplifies the commitment to the profession and the ideals Professor Holden championed throughout his lifetime with regard to vision science and innovation and are still being carried out today via the Brien Holden Vision Research Institute. The Benedict-Pitts Professorship Endowment supports a faculty member who exemplifies the commitment to practice management and the ideals that Bill C. Benedict and Dr. Donald Graves Pitts demonstrated for the optometric profession in all facets.

For more information about Dr. Das, Dr. Bergmanson, Professor Holden (1942-2015), Benedict (1925-2014) and Dr. Pitts (1927-2012), [visit the UHCO website](#).

## UMSL Opens New Patient Care Center



Dr. Larry Davis speaks at the Patient Care Center grand opening.

The University of Missouri at St. Louis (UMSL) College of Optometry officially opened its new, state-of-the-art Patient Care Center in November 2016. The new facility features 35,000 sq. ft. of clinical space for adult and pediatric eyecare services as well as an open, flowing floor plan and an abundance of natural light. The additional space it provides will help enable partnerships with nursing, dental and other healthcare providers. Speaking at the grand opening, College of Optometry Dean Dr. Larry Davis credited former UMSL Chancellor Blanche Touhill with first recognizing the need for the new space during her tenure.



Dr. Edward S. Bennett

**Also:** Dr. Edward S. Bennett, Professor and Assistant Dean for Student Services and Alumni Relations, was honored by the Indiana University School of Optometry with the 2016 Foley House Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognizes an alumnus who has spent significant time dedicated to excellence in optometry, has represented the school well throughout his/her career, and has reached pre-eminent status in the field of optometry.

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