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July/August 2024

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A Message from President Horn



As we start a new academic year, we are excited for the opportunity to educate the future of our profession. We will welcome our newest members of our community, the Class of 2028, and also continue to support the students within our programs. In addition, we continue to support our faculty and staff at our member institutions where we are honored to be a resource and to help create a sense of community within our profession.

[Learn More...](#)

ASCO NEWS

AASCO Announces Record Setting Applicants to Optometry Institutions for the 2023-2024 Application Cycle



The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry is thrilled to report its U.S. institutions had the highest number ever of applicants during the 2023-2024 OptomCAS application cycle.

[Learn More...](#)

Call for Nominations for ASCO Achievement Awards



Deadline to submit nominations is January 22, 2025.

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry is now accepting nominations for the various achievement awards that will be presented at the ASCO Annual Business Meeting in June 2025.

[Learn More...](#)

ASCO Student Affairs and Admissions Professional Group Meet in Nashville



The ASCO Student Affairs and Admissions Professional Group (SAAs) met in Nashville on June 17-18 before the start of the AOA's *Optometry's Meeting*.

[Learn More...](#)

ASCO Exhibits at AOA and NOA to the Promote Eye Opener Sessions Program



ASCO staff were busy in June and July promoting the new [Eye Opener Sessions](#) program, in addition to the *Optometry Gives Me Life* campaign at both the *Optometry's Meeting* in Nashville and National Optometric Association in Philadelphia.

[Learn More...](#)



ASCO Sponsors National Academies of Practice Annual Meeting and Forum



ASCO was a proud sponsor of this year's National Academies of Practice (NAP) Annual Meeting and Forum, which was held March 14-16 in Jacksonville, Florida.

[Learn More...](#)

ASCO Welcomes Intern Eric Chan



Eric Chan joined ASCO's team in mid July 2024. Eric is a third year student at the University of Maryland – College Park. He is currently double majoring in finance and operation management and business analytics. Eric entered ASCO as a general intern who will be assisting in multiple projects amongst various departments.

[Learn More...](#)

Future Doctor of Optometry Jannah Said Joins ASCO as Communications Intern



Jannah Said is a pre-optometry student who is excited to join ASCO as the new Communications intern. She is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (go Tar Heels!), where she is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Biology and will be graduating this upcoming May.

[Learn More...](#)

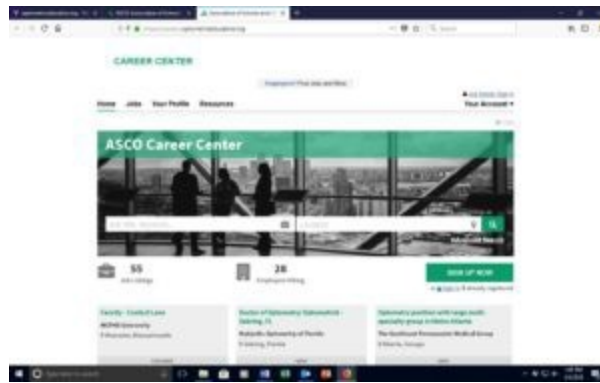
ASCO Updates IPECP Toolkit



ASCO's Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Committee (IPRF) announces that ASCO's *IPECP Toolkit, A Guide to Effective Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Experiences in Optometric Education*, has been updated and is available as an open-access document at <https://optometriceducation.org/news-resources/ipe-toolkit/>.

[Learn More...](#)

ASCO Online Career Center



The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry offers a [Career Center](#) resource, hosted by Boxwood.

[Learn More...](#)

Open Your Eyes to Bruder



You know us for the #1 doctor recommended Bruder mask, but did you know we also offer products for eye hygiene and hydration? Our lid hygiene and tea tree oil wipes, eyelid cleansing solution (0.02% HOCl) and new Dry Eye Drink were developed with you and your dry eye patients in mind. Discover practice pricing and products that set Bruder apart at bruder.com/pro.

[Learn more](#)

Advertisement ➤

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTOR NEWS

ClearVision Optical News



Celebrating 75 Years

ClearVision Optical is an award-winning leader in the optical industry, designing and distributing eyewear and sunwear for many of today's top brands. This year we are proud to be celebrating our 75th year in business. As experts in the optical industry for 75 years, our family business focuses on helping eyecare professionals by providing personal service, desirable products, and creative ways to add to profitability.

[Learn More...](#)

CooperVision News

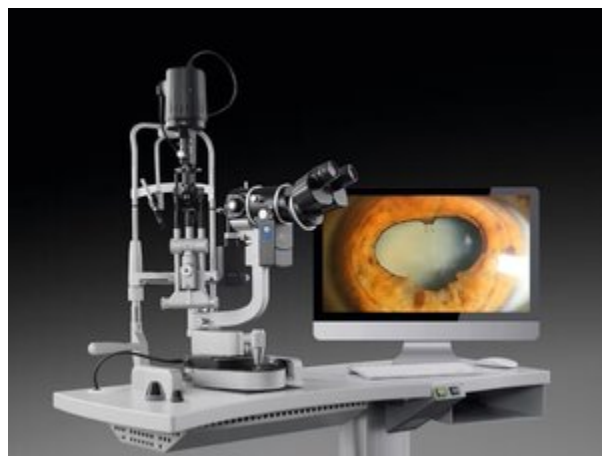


New Multifocal Contact Lens Brings CooperVision Latest Innovation & Widest Multifocal Range to Patients^{1,2}

Reflecting its steadfast commitment to continuous innovation, CooperVision now offers clariti® 1 day multifocal 3 Add contact lenses in the U.S. Several of the company's advanced technologies are combined in the new lens to provide all-day comfort, ease of fit, and the widest range to meet the needs of more patients.^{*2,3}

[Learn More...](#)

Haag-Streit News



Haag-Streit Launches 3D Imaging

Haag-Streit launched its new Imaging Module 910 3D (IM 910 3D), which features a dynamic 3D live-stream, at the American Optometric Association meeting in Nashville in June. The enhanced module comes equipped with a second 4K camera that allows doctors to experience an immersive depth impression, unveiling higher detail, and enabling a richer viewing experience.

[Learn More...](#)

NIDEK News



Celebrating Over 53 Years in the Eye Care Industry, NIDEK Proudly Delivers a Wide Range of Diagnostic Equipment that Improves Patient Outcomes and Increases Office Efficiency

NIDEK offers a wide array of diagnostic and surgical equipment designed with simplicity, functionality, and reliability to assist you with your patients having anterior and posterior disorders or diseases including glaucoma, AMD, visual function, and other vision-impairing afflictions.

[Learn More...](#)

More NIDEK News



NIDEK Mirante SLO and SLO/OCT | The Ultimate Multimodal Imaging Platform

The Mirante SLO/OCT is the ultimate multimodal fundus imaging platform that combines high definition SLO and OCT with ultra-wide field imaging. The multimodal platform captures high quality color images, fluorescein angiography (FA), indocyanine green angiography (ICG), fundus autofluorescence (FAF) including Green-FAF and Blue-FAF, unique Retro mode images, and OCT.

[Learn More...](#)

Specsavers News



Specsavers Welcomes Dr. Laurie Lesser as Key Addit

Dr. Lesser joins Specsavers as the company accelerates i
itself as the optical retail leader.

[Learn More...](#)

Stride Funding News

Stride
stridefunding.com

Are you an optometry student within 2 years of graduation?

Match with a future employer who will repay your student loans after graduation.¹

Apply
Visit stridefunding.com/sponsorme to start applying.

Match
Get selected by a top-tier employer committed to your success.

Graduate & Benefit
Upon graduation & during your employment, your employer will begin making payments toward your student loans.¹

Learn more: stridefunding.com/sponsorme

Now Accepting Applications: Employer-Sponsored Student Loan Repayment!

[Learn More...](#)

Transitions News

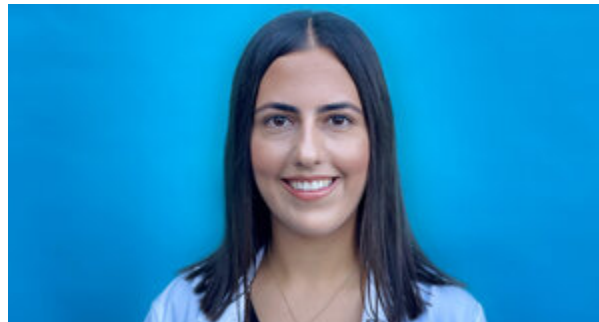


New Transitions Optical Educational Grant Program Aims to Foster a More Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Optical Industry

Diversity in Optical grants are open to students interested in pursuing careers as an optometrist, ophthalmologist or optician in the United States

[Learn More...](#)

VSP News



VSP Ventures, UC Berkeley Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science Announce 2024 Dr. Craig Hisaka Memorial Scholarship

VSP® Ventures, in partnership with UC Berkeley Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science, is proud to announce the winner of the 2024 Dr. Craig Hisaka Memorial Scholarship: Alin Torosian, Optometry Class of 2026.

[Learn More...](#)

MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Lighthizer Named Dean of Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry



After a nationwide search, Northeastern State University (NSU) has selected Dr. Nathan Lighthizer as the Dean for the Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO).

[Learn More...](#)

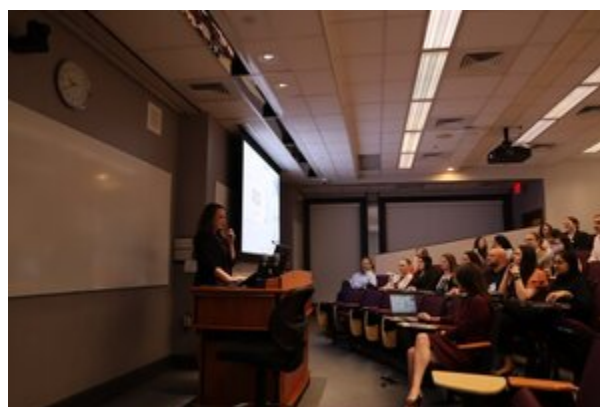
Sharon A. Bentley Named New Dean of Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry & Vision Science at University of California, Berkeley



After a successful international search, Sharon A. Bentley has been selected to serve as the new Dean of the Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry & Vision Science. Professor Bentley is currently professor of optometry, deputy dean of the Faculty of Health and director of the Centre for Vision and Eye Research at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia. She will join the UC Berkeley community on February 3, 2025.

[Learn More...](#)

Celebrating NECO Residents



NECO hosted the annual John E. Asarkof Residency Conference. The event celebrated the residency year that runs from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. This was the last of four conferences throughout the year offered to all NECO Residents. NECO has 18-affiliated residency programs throughout New England that welcome 38 residents each year. These paid programs include advanced training in community-based centers and VAs, as well as other prestigious organizations.

[Learn More...](#)

Salus President Accepts Inaugural Aerospace Optometry Award Named in His Honor



During his career, Salus University president Michael H. Mittelman, OD '80, MPH, MBA, FAAO, FACHE, has said he has been lucky enough to be surrounded by some of the giants in aerospace medicine and Navy optometry.

[Learn More...](#)

Salus Presidential Medal of Honor Recipients Honored



When Paul Freeman, OD '74, FFAO, was thinking about his acceptance speech for receiving the 2024 Presidential Medal of Honor from Salus University, he decided he wanted to deliver a message to his daughter, Julia.

[Learn More...](#)

UAB Vision Science Students Awarded Competitive Ezell Fellowships



The American Academy of Optometry (AAO) Foundation awarded two Vision Science Graduate Program doctoral students at the UAB School of Optometry competitive Ezell fellowships. Sourav Datta received the American Academy of Optometry Centennial Ezell Fellowship. Mahmoud KhalafAllah, MD, MSc, received the Meta Realty Labs Ezell Fellowship, marking his second Ezell win — the maximum possible.

[Learn More...](#)

Chicago College of Optometry Career Fair Illuminates Future Occupations



The Chicago College of Optometry (CCO) held its second annual career fair where optometry students had the chance to interact with about 23 sponsors and participants in the field. The students had the chance to learn about various career opportunities, ask questions, and seek additional information. Two guest speakers, Priscilla Pappas, OD, and Darryl Glover, OD, offered a variety of advice and insight for aspiring optometrists.

[Learn More...](#)

Southern College of Optometry Honors Robertson



Mike Robertson, SCO's longtime Senior Director of Admissions & Student Services, retired in May after nearly 30 years of collective service to the college. He was honored at the end of the ceremony by Joe Hauser, SCO's Vice President of Student Services.

[Learn More...](#)

NECO Alumni Return to Beacon Street for Reunion



On Saturday, April 6, over 75 New England College of Optometry (NECO) alumni from 10 different

graduating classes gathered at Beacon Street to commemorate the college's inaugural reunion event. This was the first in-person reunion since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Amidst warm embraces and a few tears, former classmates reconnected and swapped tales from their unique and shared experiences as NECO students.

[Learn More...](#)



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Colleges of Optometry**

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