



NEWS & VIEWS

A Newsletter for the
Members, Associate Members
and Administrators of the
Association of University
Professors of Ophthalmology

SEPTEMBER 2012

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Preparing for Healthcare Changes

BY RANDALL J OLSON, MD



AS I COMPOSE MY FIRST REPORT as your President, I can only marvel at all the unknowns we face at this most critical time for American medicine. The single most important healthcare legislation since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid — the Patient Protection and Affordable Care

Act (PPACA) — is due to go into effect on 1/1/14, but the possibility exists that many of its components may be ruled unconstitutional within weeks. In fact, while most pundits consider this unlikely, the entire act may be tossed out by the U.S. Supreme Court. In light of this uncertainty, most states have instituted a “wait and see” approach to things, so that now, should the act be ruled constitutional, there is no way they can be ready for a 1/1/14 start date — yet it also appears unlikely that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services want to institute insurance exchanges in what could be over half the states. Will the 1/1/14 date be delayed? Can congressional gridlock even allow any substantial change? Will the Presidential election be a game changer for the whole act, if Mitt Romney is elected?

In the midst of this, we have to plan for our future as healthcare providers, as producers of future doctors and specialists, and as the leaders of our individual academic units — units that are bound to be buffeted by all of the change that is clearly on the horizon. While a respite from change may seem a nice thing, the present system is not sustainable, so something has to give. How do we plan for all of this? And is the

situation so unpredictable that any planning is likely to miss the mark in spite of our best efforts?

The President’s Symposium at AUPO’s 2013 Annual Meeting will focus on what we know about healthcare reform, how we can prepare, and what other initiatives are likely to impact us. This will give all of us a chance to compare notes, discuss what we know, and plan for the future. If there ever was an AUPO meeting you should attend, please make it this one. Many other germane topics will be covered, including those in the management symposium, under the able leadership of Keith Carter.

In the meantime, what can we do now to prepare for change, regardless of the eventual outcome of PPACA? Here are four principles that will help us, regardless of what happens:

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1. Know your costs and start controlling them.

How much does cataract surgery or an intermediate exam cost? Few institutions know this in precise detail, but those that do are miles ahead of the game. It is not good enough to say “it is the hospital’s problem” because bundling around episodes of care are inevitable. The only thing that drops straight to the bottom line is cost savings, which presupposes knowing all costs. Start now on this exercise.

2. Find out how your department rates on “report cards” and launch an effective response.

All sides of the debate agree that transparency is critical to the future evolution of healthcare. Transparency is being sought through the use of “report cards” on all elements of what we do: from patient wait times, to patient satisfaction, cost, complications, utilization, etc. The fact that many of these comparators are badly flawed is not slowing down this process, as the recent release of hospital report cards has clearly shown. Insurance companies have been accumulating this kind of data for a while now, and if it is not public in your area yet, it will be soon. Academic units often do not look good in such reports for a host of reasons, such as flawed data and risk adjusting. How does your department rate? What are you doing about it? Now is the time to take this seriously. In our area, two major insurers declared an Orthopedics hospital a tier-two facility (no major medical coverage and a 20% out-of-pocket expense for anyone going there without limit) based on excessive expense, and patients covered by these insurers have essentially stopped going there. The impact was immediate and substantial. This is but a taste of the future.

3. Establish how your department is viewed as a part of your Health Sciences Center.

While there may be safety in being part of a larger system (individuals in small private practices may not know what hit them), there will also be winners and losers. Ophthalmology has, sadly, often been shunted to the side, and we have not helped, with our all-too-common standoffishness. Are we perceived as a financial drain? Are we seen as a “player” in helping the institution prepare for coming change? Are we leading the charge, or digging in our heels and resisting? There are a lot of ways individual units can respond to change, and how the cards are dealt to us will be highly predicated on whether we are seen as part of the solution or part of the problem.

4. Set aside some reserves.

Those that are going to survive are those that have reserves, both financial and social. Organizational stability will be best for groups that have buy-in and understanding about what preparations are being made. Tough choices about creating reserves can win plaudits from our team, or jeers, all depending on how we manage this process. It is time to get the house in order by asking questions such as: how would we manage if our average reimbursement were the same as Medicare (a real possibility in the not-too-distant future)? A prepared team has a much greater chance of surviving intact.

Also, do not forget the incredible resources of all our fellow chairs. None have ever failed to help with queries and suggestions and in my experience, such support has always been freely given. As your leaders at this time, we are ready to match you with best practices and find someone with experience who can help. We have amazingly skilled, experienced and talented peers in AUPO. So remember, you are not alone! ■

Program Directors Council Report

BY ANDREAS K. LAUER, MD

THE PROGRAM DIRECTORS COUNCIL (PDC) continues to work toward the goal of improving ophthalmology resident education by providing effective resources to our fellow program directors. Current members of the PDC include Dr. Mark S. Juzych, Immediate Past President, Dr. Andreas K. Lauer, President, Dr. Tara A. Uhler, President-Elect,

and four at-large members: Drs. Natalie C. Kerr, Thomas A. Oetting, Laura L. Wayman, and Shahzad I. Mian. Dr. Keith D. Carter serves as our liaison to the AUPO Board of Trustees. Each year a new member is elected as the Past

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Program Directors Council Presidents' Report
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President rotates off the council. PDC members must have at least two years of experience as a program director, and be able to serve a seven-year term. Nominations for membership will be solicited via email in October and November, and I encourage anyone interested in this opportunity to submit your nomination.

Educational symposia sponsored by the PDC in the coming year include:

- The AUPO Teaching and Learning in Ophthalmology (TLO) Symposium, "Crash Courses in Teaching: A Primer for Faculty Development," will take place at the annual AAO meeting in Chicago on Monday, November 12, 2012 from 12:45-2:15 pm at the McCormick Place Convention Center. This symposium will be chaired by Dr. Andreas K. Lauer. Since faculty development is an area of broad interest, this year's symposium will provide resources and help ophthalmic educators learn skills that will enhance their ability to teach and engage residents. The information presented will be practical and applicable to all ophthalmic educators, both new and experienced. We will draw on the knowledge of experienced ophthalmic educators and the resources of internet communication to discuss salient and novel areas in teaching ophthalmology. Congratulations to Dr. Thomas A. Oetting, the recipient of this year's Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education. There is unequivocal agreement that his tremendous contributions make this a very well-deserved honor. Dr. Oetting will conclude the AUPO TLO symposium with the Straatsma lecture.
- The annual Educating the Educators (EE) meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 30, 2013, immediately preceding the annual AUPO meeting at the Loews Coronado Bay in San Diego, California. Drs. Laura Wayman and Shahzad Mian have prepared a program focused on developing communication skills and addressing issues that have significant impact on an academic physician's career. Additionally, a free paper session will provide program directors with an opportunity to present their innovations, observations and ideas about ophthalmology resident education. An invitation to submit your work

was sent on July 16 via the eyepdnet listserv. The deadline for submitting abstracts was August 15. Updates from organizations impacting resident education will again be provided. New program directors will be invited to a welcome breakfast immediately before the meeting.

- The annual Residency Program Symposium will take place on Thursday, January 31, 2013 at the AUPO meeting. This year's program is entitled, "Ophthalmology Resident Candidate Interviews: Best Practices, Pitfalls and Legal Considerations." The objective of the session is to provide programs with tools to use when reviewing applications and communicating with candidates, to avoid exposure to potential legal liabilities.
- The Residency Review Committee (RRC) Workshop will take place on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at the AUPO meeting. The program will be chaired by Dr. Anthony C. Arnold. This workshop is an excellent forum for discussion of current Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and RRC activities. The presentations and discussion provide an opportunity for program directors to better understand ACGME program requirements and enhances their ability to adjust and administer the educational curriculum at their respective institutions.
- Dr. Patricia Levenberg, Executive Director of the Ophthalmology RRC, will once again offer individual appointments with program directors at the AUPO meeting. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss specific issues about your program that relate to the RRC and the ACGME. Invitations to schedule these appointments will be sent via email prior to the AUPO meeting.

The PDC remains committed first and foremost to improving each program director's ability to provide their residents with high quality educational experiences. The success of this endeavor depends directly on input from all ophthalmology program directors, and we solicit your continued participation. I am greatly indebted to all of the present and past PDC members for generously lending their time, talent, and energy to the sole purpose of improving ophthalmic resident education. For any comments or questions regarding the PDC or its activities, please contact me at lauera@ohsu.edu. ■

Medical Student Educators Council Update

BY LINDA LIPPA, MD

THE MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATORS COUNCIL meets quarterly via teleconference to discuss progress made in the projects chosen at the annual meeting. There has been progress in the realm of electronic patient cases, in collaboration with a new member from Harvard, and engineers from VRMagic who are introducing a virtual direct ophthalmoscope product. Studies of efficacy will be conducted comparing various electronic patient formats and novel teaching

methods. A robust rubric for evaluating fundoscopic skills is being developed for use as a standard in all future studies. Dr. Eduardo Mayorga, of the South American Academy of Ophthalmology, has volunteered to translate all electronic patient scenarios into Spanish for use internationally, as well as in programs in the U.S. geared towards practitioners who practice in underserved Hispanic communities (such as the PRIME-LC program at UC Irvine).

Administrators Update

BY WAYNE IMBRESCHIA, MPH, MHSA

AS I BEGIN MY TERM AS PRESIDENT of the University Administrators of Ophthalmology (UAO), I would like to thank all of you who selflessly give your time and energy to build what I believe is a unique organization. Not to sound clichéd, but ours truly is an organization for the people, by the people. What I mean by that is our organization is defined by the value we realize through collaboration. Whether it be through Listserv Live, or sessions at our annual meeting, we continue to build on our willingness to share and exchange ideas.

That said, I am excited to provide you with a summary of our annual Board of Directors meeting, which took place in mid-July. The majority of the Board's efforts were invested in planning the program for our next annual meeting. As in years past, the program is primarily constructed around feedback from the attendees at last year's meeting, and using resources such as our listserv to identify topics that might be of interest to our membership-at-large. Sheri Farber of Washington University in St. Louis is UAO Board of Directors Vice President for 2012-2014 and leads the planning and recruitment of speakers for these sessions.

This year's program will begin with our Administrator's welcome reception on Wednesday evening. The Thursday Management Symposium, which will be held jointly with the Chairs and Program Directors, has been designed around the topics of Accountable Care Organizations and the Hospital-Based Practice. Following the Management Symposium and the Straatsma Lecture we have scheduled two of our most popular sessions: "What's Happening in My Backyard" and "Listserv Live." Please note that we will provide lunch to optimize the use of our time. Friday, we will be offering three sessions: Benchmarking, Research Administration, and EMR-imaging packages. Culminating our meeting, on Saturday we will feature our "Hot Topics" sessions: Clinical Staffing Models, Revenue Cycle, and Patient Flow.

A seat on our Board will be available next spring. The election for this position will take place at the annual meeting in San Diego this coming January. Please watch for nomination information via email over the next few months. Your suggestions for nominees would be greatly appreciated. As always, thanks for your support and participation in the UAO. I look forward to seeing you at this year's annual meeting. ■

Research Directors Update

BY J. MARK PETRASH, PHD

2012 IS THE INAUGURAL YEAR of AUPO's Research Directors Council (RDC). At the January 2012 AUPO Annual Meeting in Miami, 16 research directors came together to activate the RDC and elect a slate of officers. These include Mark Petrash (President), Scott Cousins (President-Elect), David Calkins and Mark Rosenblatt (successive Members-at-Large). One of the goals in forming a research directors group is to develop programming that will provide important "take home" information for our members. I think we have much to look forward to.

Since January, our officers have worked hard to develop the framework of our organization and to plan our program for the 2013 Annual Meeting. Our preliminary program will focus on the following themes:

Challenges and Opportunities in Faculty Development

Tentative schedule: Friday 2/1/2013

Moderators: Scott Cousins and David Calkins

Format: We are planning this to be a brainstorming session involving a panel of speakers, including department heads and research directors. Q&A between panelists and the audience will be encouraged. Preliminary topic areas will include:

- Mentoring faculty along the career path
- Critical faculty skills for resident and fellow mentoring
- Clinician scientist mentoring
- Mentoring relationships between scientists and clinicians
- Strategies for mentoring medical and graduate students in a clinical department
- Seeing research faculty through funding difficulties

Nontraditional Sources of Research Funding

Tentative schedule: Saturday 2/2/2013

Moderator: Mark Rosenblatt

Format: Presentations from academic and industry leaders, followed by Q&A. Topic areas include:

- Building centers of innovation within academic ophthalmology: Can an eye department function as a vision center?
- Mechanisms of biopharmaceutical support for academic researchers
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for translational research: Small Business Innovation Research

(SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants

- Accessing venture capital to support translational research
- Nontraditional funding: Role of the department chair

Site visit to UC San Diego's Shiley Eye Center

Tentative schedule: Friday 2/1/2013

Scientists at the Shiley Eye Center will host a site visit and tour of their facilities.

Research Directors Business Meeting

Tentative schedule: Friday 2/1/2013

Our annual business meeting will be held during a hosted luncheon. Plan to attend and contribute your ideas.

The annual meeting will be held at the Loews Coronado Bay in San Diego. We look forward to seeing you there. Please contact mark.petrash@ucdenver.edu for more information or to refer a research director colleague who is not yet an AUPO member.

AUPO Chair Mentoring Program

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF AUPO has established a chair mentoring program for chairs or about-to-be chairs. Mentoring is an important element in the academic way of life and is currently mandated in many universities. A mentor provides his or her mentee with advice, guidance, perspective, wisdom, counsel and perhaps even inspiration. Chairs and about-to-be chairs are invited to participate in AUPO's Chair Mentoring Program. Participation should last approximately two years for each mentee. Mentors include retired chairs who have been presidents of AUPO. If you are interested in having a mentor, please contact Sara Nguyen at snguyen@jsei.ucla.edu. ■

Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology

2013 Annual Meeting, January 30–February 2; Loews Coronado, San Diego, CA

Preliminary Schedule

Wednesday, January 30

8:00 am – 4:00 pm Educating the Educators Meeting – by the Program Directors Council

Thursday, January 31

8:00 am – 8:15 am Welcome

8:15 am – 11:30 am Management Symposium
Hospital-Based Practice – Is it Good for Ophthalmology?

- The history of hospital-based medical practices
- How do we get our fair share of the pie?
- Pros and cons of hospital-based systems

Accountable Care Organizations

- Affordable Care Act/Accountable Care Organizations: What is Ophthalmology’s Role?

11:30 am – 12:00 pm Straatsma Award Presentation and Lecture

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm AUPO Business Meeting

12:45 pm – 1:30 pm LUNCH (On your Own)

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm Residency Program Symposium – by the Program Directors Council
Ophthalmology Resident Candidate Interviews: Best Practices, Pitfalls and Legal Considerations

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Members & Guests Welcome Reception

Friday, February 1

6:45 am – 7:45 am Breakfast with Colleagues Networking Roundtables

7:45 am – 10:15 am President’s Symposium in Memory of Steven M. Podos, MD

If this is Not on Your Radar it should be!

- ACA: What to expect 1-1-14!
- Reimbursement Trends to Watch
- ACOs and Ophthalmology
- Patient Satisfaction: Why You Need a Program Now!

- Transparency: Utilization, Cost and Quality
- Industrial Relations Concerns and Opportunities
- Finding the Academic Leaders for Tomorrow
- Femtosecond Cataract Surgery: Fad or for Real!
- Should we be Part of Multi-disciplinary Service Lines or Go it Alone?

10:15 am – 10:45 am BREAK

10:45 am – 11:45 am Resident and Fellow Research Forum

11:45 am – 12:25 pm Organization Reports (Part I)

12:25 pm – 1:00 pm AUPO Business Meeting

12:45 pm LUNCH (On your Own)

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm Research Director Member Luncheon and Business Meeting

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Medical Student Education Workshop

1:45 pm – 3:45 pm Challenges & Opportunities in Faculty Development – by the Research Directors Council

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Site visit to UCSD Shiley Eye Center (tentative)

6:30 pm – 10:00 pm Reception and Banquet for Members, Administrators and Registered Guests

Saturday, February 2

8:00 am – 8:55 am Organization Reports (Part II)

8:55 am – 9:10 am BREAK

9:15 am – 11:00 am Symposium: *Time Management*

11:15 am – 12:45 pm Workshops and Discussion Groups

1. Residency Review Committee Update: *Hot Topics from the Ophthalmology RRC*

2. Skills for Chairs

3. Non-Traditional Sources of Research Funding

4. Annual Medical Student Educators Meeting – everyone welcome

12:45 pm Meeting Adjourns

University Administrators of Ophthalmology 2013 Annual Meeting – January 30 – February 2 Preliminary Schedule

Wednesday, January 30

7:30 pm–9:30 pm Administrators' Welcome Reception

Thursday, January 31

8:00 am–8:15 am Welcome
 8:15 am–11:30 am Management Symposium
Hospital Based Practice—Is it Good for Ophthalmology?
Accountable Care Organizations
 11:30 am–12:00 pm Straatsma Award Presentation and Lecture
 12:00 pm–1:30 pm What's Happening in My Backyard
 1:30 pm–3:00 pm Listserv Live
 4:00 pm–8:00 pm Administrators' Outing and Dinner

Friday, February 1

8:00 am–9:30 am Benchmarking
 9:30 am–11:00 am Topics in Research Administration
11:00 am–11:30 am BREAK
 11:30 am–1:00 pm EMR and Imaging
 1:00 pm Lunch (On Your Own)
 6:30 pm–10:00 pm Reception and Banquet for Members, Administrators and Registered Guests

Saturday, February 2

8:00 am–9:00 am Hot Topics—Facilitated Discussions—Clinic Staffing
 9:00 am–9:30 am UAO Business Meeting
9:30 am–9:45 am BREAK
 9:45 am–12:00 pm Hot Topics: Facilitated Discussions—Revenue Cycle, Patient Flow
 12:00 pm Adjourn

Educating the Educators Wednesday, January 30, 2013 Preliminary Schedule

7:30 am–8:15 am Registration and Continental Breakfast
 8:20 am–8:30 am Welcome & Review of Feedback from EE2011
 8:30 am–10:00 am Free Paper Session
10:00 am–10:25 am BREAK
 10:30 am–12:00 pm Free Paper Session (*continued*)
12:00 pm–1:15 pm LUNCH (included)
 1:30 pm–2:45 pm *Issues Impacting an Academic Physician's Career: Promotion, Identifying Mentors, and Burn Out*
 Luanne Thorndyke, MD
 Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Professor of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine
 3:00 pm–4:15 pm *Developing Communication Skills for Program Directors*
 Jeffrey Loewenstein, PhD
 Associate Professor of Management, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 4:30 pm Wrap-Up/Adjournment
 5:00 pm Reception

2013 Annual Meeting IMPORTANT DATES

October 16, 2012

Advance Registration Opens

November 15, 2012

Housing Opens to Advance Registrants Only

January 9, 2013

Advance Registration Closes

The View from RPB

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) was created to serve as a catalyst for eye research, providing vision scientists with access to all forms of financial support. While that mission has remained the same over the years, RPB's tactical approach has changed in order to address the developing needs of the vision research community. RPB's support for the creation of the National Eye Institute, and for AUPO itself, are part of that history. Its extensive Grant Program, however, has always been at the heart of RPB's activities, and the organization has recently undertaken a series of enhancements in that regard.

Last year, in order to fund cutting-edge research that applies to blindness, yet is conducted outside of a department of ophthalmology, RPB announced the Innovative Ophthalmic Research (IOR) Award. Three IORs were awarded from a pool of 21 applications, making it RPB's most competitive grant category to date. Awardees' proposed investigations included: the development of a new kind of intraocular lens to produce a substantial change in power; identifying the signal receptor and pathway for rod-derived cone viability factor to promote cone survival in retinitis pigmentosa patients; and the development of optical, three-dimensional microangiography to non-invasively image, quantify and characterize retinal blood perfusion at the capillary level of resolution.

In 2012, RPB's Board of Trustees, acting on feedback from RPB's Scientific Advisory Panel, increased the dollar amounts for several grant categories. The RPB Career Development Award has been increased from \$200,000 across four years to \$250,000. The RPB Senior Scientific Investigator Award has been increased from \$75,000 to \$150,000. The RPB Physician Scientist Award has been increased from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

"We have made these significant adjustments not only to help meet the increasing costs of conducting medical research," says RPB Chair Diane S. Swift, "but to increase the probability that RPB researchers will continue to produce impactful findings. Half-measures will not help us realize our goals."

RPB Announces New Lab Grant

In years past, RPB has been involved in supporting the construction of new research facilities across the nation. In a return to that role, RPB announced the RPB Sanders Laboratory Construction Grant, a one-time, laboratory construction grant program. This grant, made possible by the estate of William Clifford Sanders and Mildred Krahmer Sanders, will

provide approximately \$550,000 to one RPB-supported ophthalmology department for construction of one laboratory for vision research purposes only.

In outlining the grant application guidelines to department chairs, RPB Grants Administrator Patricia Moran explained, "While this grant program is intended to support the construction of new space, expansion and/or renovation of existing space will be considered. Equipping all or a portion of the new laboratory is an option if grant funds are available. Individual researchers, teams of investigators or the entire ophthalmology faculty may access the new laboratory."

The grant will be awarded in June 2013 and the laboratory must be operational by March 1, 2015.

"Research to Prevent Blindness is extremely gratified to have received this forward-thinking gift from the Sanders' Trust," says Swift. "Through their generosity, they have expressed confidence in RPB to effectively carry out their wishes. In administering a rigorous and competitive selection process for this one-time grant, RPB will transfer that trust to one of its grantees." ■

The Heed Foundation Merit Award Fellowship Program

The Heed Ophthalmic Foundation designates the Heed Fellowship as a Merit Award of \$10,000. This annual award is granted to individuals pursuing post-graduate studies in ophthalmology or the related visual sciences. Applicants for the award must be citizens of the United States, graduates of either accredited medical schools or schools of osteopathic medicine and the post-graduate studies must be conducted in the United States. Deadline for receipt of applications is January 15th for fellowships beginning in the same year. For information, please contact:

Jane Sardelle
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Creating a National Vision Research Agenda

BY PAUL A. SIEVING, MD, PHD, *Director, National Eye Institute*

THE NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE (NEI) is embarking on a new venture to expand and enhance its strategic planning effort. This month NEI launched the Challenge to Identify Audacious Goals in Vision Research and Blindness Rehabilitation. The Challenge is conducted under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, which President Obama signed into law in 2011.

Success will require engaging a large number of creative and innovative individuals who can contribute novel and far-reaching ideas. I encourage all members of AUPO to participate by submitting an “audacious” goal and by spreading news about the challenge to your colleagues in the vision research community and other medical and scientific disciplines.

NEI will award a \$3,000 prize to up to 20 Challenge contestants for a short (approximately one-page) description of an audacious goal. The entries will be anonymized and judged by National Institutes of Health (NIH) staff. Winners will be invited to attend the NEI Audacious Goals Meeting, slated for February 2013, to present and discuss the importance of their concept. Meeting participants will explore, expand, and refine the winning entries. After the meeting, NEI, in consultation with its National Advisory Eye Council, will incorporate the most compelling audacious goals into a national research agenda that will inform research priorities for NEI and other public and private vision research organizations.

What is an audacious goal? One that fundamentally advances vision research or vision care by closing critical knowledge gaps, opening developmental bottlenecks, finding missing pieces to scientific puzzles, or providing key elements to translate scientific discoveries into clinical applications. NEI is looking for bold ideas from vision researchers, the greater science community, and the public that support the NEI mission—to conduct and support research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs aimed at reducing the burden of vision disorders and disease worldwide.

NEI was the first NIH institute to engage in strategic planning. For four decades, NEI relied exclusively on expert panels in vision science to create a research plan in six broad program areas: retinal diseases; corneal diseases; lens and cataract; glaucoma and optic neuropathies; strabismus,

amblyopia, and visual processing; and low vision and blindness rehabilitation. The most recent compilation of these six panel reports, *Vision Research: Needs, Gaps, and Opportunities*, was published in August 2012 and outlines critical areas that need sustained research. NEI now seeks to extend strategic planning activities to prioritize and identify far-reaching goals with high promise to impact its mission.

The past decade has delivered powerful resources and tools to conduct research that will facilitate breakthroughs in understanding and treating disease. Beginning in 2001 with the elucidation of the human genome, significant advances have continued with the first demonstration of human ocular gene therapy, development of induced pluripotent stem cells, identification of silencing and micro RNAs, and production of organized neural retinal tissue in an eyecup developed from mouse stem cells. Now, the stage is set to think boldly about future goals for vision research.

A new concept in NIH strategic planning, the NEI Audacious Goals Challenge will garner input from across the full spectrum of science and engineering. The Challenge solicits original and inventive approaches from academia, industry, the nonprofit sector, and the general public. Thus, the NEI is casting the widest net possible to capture ideas transferable to vision science.

Why a contest? Challenges stimulate innovative thinking. Our greatest feats in science and technology—moon landings, vaccines, and genome sequencing—transpired when creative, bright individuals rallied around a singular cause. Even if the original idea can be traced to a single investigator or team, the most extraordinary ideas do not blossom without the assistance of the larger science community. Appealing to vision researchers and talented individuals from other disciplines, the NEI Audacious Goals Challenge will energize the research community and foster new collaborative activities toward decreasing the burden of eye diseases and blindness worldwide.

To read the entry and eligibility rules and submit a challenge, please visit the NEI website at www.nei.nih.gov/challenge. Submissions should address why the audacious goal is important, how to achieve the goal within 5-10 years, and how realization of the goal will impact the NEI mission. The deadline for submission is November 12, 2012. ■

Association of Veterans Affairs Ophthalmologists (AVAO)

BY FRANCISCO GARCIA-FERRER, MD, *President, AVAO*

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012, Dr. Glenn Cockerham accepted the position of National Program Director, Ophthalmology, for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Cockerham has served as Chief of Ophthalmology and Eye Care Services for the Palo Alto VA Medical Center for eight years. He is a Clinical Associate Professor in Ophthalmology and Pathology at Stanford University, and has been nationally recognized for his research efforts in the area of traumatic brain injury. Dr. Cockerham replaces Dr. Jim Orcutt, who served for 18 years as National Program Director. The Association of Veterans Affairs Ophthalmologists (AVAO) congratulates Dr. Cockerham on his new post at the helm of VA ophthalmology.

The AVAO invites AUPO members to attend our annual events at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting in Chicago. On Monday, November 12, the AVAO will host its Annual Business Meeting for active members at the Hyatt McCormick Place. This meeting will take place from 7:00 am to 9:30 am, and will update VA ophthalmologists on current issues in the VA. AUPO members with joint VA appointments who have not yet joined the AVAO may request membership information and RSVP for the business meeting by emailing Stephen Moss at smoss@aao.org. For individuals interested in joining the AVAO Executive Board, we are currently soliciting nominations for the Secretary position. For

information on this position and instructions on nominating an individual, please contact Stephen Moss.

This year, the VA/Department of Defense (DOD) Noon-time Symposium will also take place on Monday, November 12. The title of this year's symposium is "Tele-health in the VA, DOD and Indian Health Service (IHS): The Right Care, in the Right Place, at the Right Time." In this special session, VA, DOD, and IHS representatives will review applications of tele-health technologies including synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (store-and-forward, e-consult) methodologies being employed in Federal healthcare systems. The VA has been a leader in tele-health care. This session will feature Dr. Adam Darkins, Chief Consultant, Care Coordination Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, who leads the National Care Coordination/Telehealth Program. His keynote lecture will review the VA's extensive programs in tele-health, including tele-ophthalmology, through which over 500,000 patients have been screened for diabetic retinopathy.

Finally, the AVAO social will take place at the Westin Michigan Avenue from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm on Monday evening. This annual event provides an excellent opportunity for AVAO members to network with each other and representatives from the AAO. AVAO members and potential members can RSVP for the social by emailing Stephen Moss at smoss@aao.org. ■

AAO Mid-Year Forum, Washington, D.C.

BY JOEL S. SCHUMAN, MD

I ATTENDED THE AMERICAN ACADEMY of Ophthalmology (AAO) Mid-Year Forum in Washington, D.C. from April 25-28, 2012, in my role as AAO Councilor representing the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO). This was the 20th Annual Mid-Year Forum, which includes a Council meeting for all state representatives and all representatives of the subspecialty organizations. Prior to

the start of the Mid-Year Forum, there was the Congressional Advocacy Day at the U.S. Capitol.

There are three primary components of the Mid-Year Forum: Congressional Advocacy Day, Mid-Year Forum sessions and the Council meeting.

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AAO Mid-Year Forum, Washington, D.C.
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Congressional Advocacy Day

During Congressional Advocacy Day, over 400 ophthalmologists, including ambassadors, visited members of Congress and their staff. Priority messages were delivered on fair and stable Medicare reimbursement, Truth in Advertising – Empowering Patients: the Healthcare Truth & Transparency Act, and funding support for the National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute and the Department of Defense Vision Trauma Research Program.

The Mid-Year Forum

The Mid-Year Forum included three general sessions. The opening session featured “Physician Profiling & the Demands for Accountability.” Under Healthcare Reform Law, consumers, employers, and insurance companies will soon have access to Medicare claims data about individual physicians. Medical report cards could become a powerful tool for driving improvements in quality care and reducing waste. Leaders in physician profiling offered insights, followed by a group of ophthalmologists who described early efforts to be ahead of the curve. Other sessions were “Keeping Innovation Alive: Balancing Science, Regulations, Business & Ethics,” and “Learning from the Heart: Status of Medical Registries.”

The Council Meeting

The Council functions as the Policy Advisory Body (102 state, subspecialty and specialized interest leaders) to AAO’s Board of Trustees. Councilors represent ophthalmologists in the states and in national subspecialty/specialized interest societies. Councilors met in a general session, in nine regional meetings, in a state section and also in a subspecialty/specialized interest section. In addition, there was a Council Advisory Recommendation (CAR) hearing where Councilors introduced various issues to AAO’s Board to consider and prioritize. The Council produces CARs, which are recommendations to the AAO Board about the specific issues, programs, and/or products on which to focus. There was much discussion on the importance of state ophthalmology society membership and collaborative programs with state ophthalmology societies.

Highlights of the 2012 Council Meeting included the Keynote Lecture, “Health Care Down Under,” presented by William Glasson, MBBS, President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists, a discussion of AAO’s efforts to support state ophthalmology societies and the many collaborative programs, and an update on EyeSmart EyeCheck Screenings, a pilot program created to combat

undetected eye disease and visual impairment in the United States, particularly among minority populations who disproportionately lack access to eye care. AAO is partnering with state ophthalmology societies on this program and has plans to complete four more screenings this year, having completed one in March in Illinois.

The AAO Council met for the final two days of the meeting. AUPO representation is critically important to AAO. AAO has specifically requested input from AUPO regarding the issues of attendance and educational programs for optometrists at AAO annual meetings. The Council meeting also provides the state council representatives and the subspecialty organizations an opportunity to submit CARs to AAO regarding issues of concern to AAO members. At the April 28 CAR hearing, 12 CARs were discussed by the Council and nine CARs were referred to the Board of Trustees for determination of next steps. The CAR Hearing Report can be reviewed at <http://www.aao.org/about/governance/council/upload/2012-CAR-Hearing-Report.pdf> for the outcomes of the discussions. In June, the BOT will meet to discuss the referred CARs, which will result in a status report that will then be available to the Council. Progress of the CARs throughout the year can be followed via the CAR online database at <https://secure.aao.org/apps/Default.aspx?tabid=409>. 2013 CAR submissions will be available January 1. Special appreciation is due to Drs. Peter K. Kaiser of the American Society of Retina Specialists, and Sanjay D. Goel, who admirably served as chair and co-chair, respectively, for the CAR hearing.

The importance of support from organizations representing the needs of ophthalmologists was emphasized at the meeting. In addition to being active members at the state and national levels, it was stressed that **all** AAO members should contribute to AAO’s Surgical Scope Fund, their State Eye Political Action Committee and the AAO Political Committee (OPHTHPAC), and this support should be viewed as the “cost of doing business.” One area of particular note has been the Surgical Scope Fund. AAO, in concert with state ophthalmology societies, has been able to reject optometry surgical initiatives in 26 states, including Puerto Rico, from 1999-2011. With recent Kentucky legislation, this fund is even more critical, as other states are being targeted.

AUPO is strongly represented at this meeting by Drs. Russell N. Van Gelder, Chair of the Council, John Sutphin, Councilor for the American Board of Ophthalmology, and James Tsai, Councilor for the American Glaucoma Society. Finally, during the Spring meeting the AAO Councilor for AUPO was elected Section Representative to the AAO Nominating Committee. My term begins on January 1 and ends on December 31, 2013. ■

San Francisco Match Update

BY DENNIS THOMATOS AND TIM LOSCH

ENTERING OUR 36TH YEAR OF PARTNERSHIP with the ophthalmology residency match, the San Francisco Matching Program continues to engage program directors and applicants in improving the matching experience for both programs and applicants.

Several enhancements are in place for the current match cycle including:

- Ability to view your past match results. Starting in September, easy access to your program's past match cycles will be only a click away.
- Improved download speeds so you can complete your tasks more quickly.
- A new tabbed interface so applicants can easily preview each section of the application as they complete it.
- Online access to applicant photographs for viewing and downloading by programs.

SF Match staff is available to answer your questions and provide assistance from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (PST), Monday through Friday.

Finally, last year's timeline for the release of results on Match Day was so popular that we're not changing a thing. Here's the planned timeline for Match Day:

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

- 4:00 am PST – Applicants and Medical School Dean's offices receive a YES/NO (MATCHED/UNMATCHED) email informing them of their match result status but NOT where they matched.
- 5:00 am PST – Each program receives a list of its matched applicants via email.
- 8:00 am PST – Medical School Dean's Offices access student match results online via the SF Match Medical School Portal.
- 9:00 am PST – Program **Rank List** results become available online. Log in to SF Match account to view results.

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

- 8:00 am PST – Applicants' results available online.

Thursday, January 17, 2013

- 8:00 am PST – **Full match results** of all applicants who have applied to your program will be available online.
- 9:00 am PST – Programs with unfilled positions will be listed as having vacancies on our website unless otherwise requested by the respective unmatched programs. ■

AUPO Board Highlights

July 20, 2012 Meeting

- Approved Dr. Thomas Oetting as this year's winner of the Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education.
- Approved a \$25 dues increase for Members effective for the July 2013-June 2014 period; the last increase was in 2000.
- Voted to allow non-member institutions to post faculty positions on the AUPO website for a fee.
- Appointed Dr. Susan Day to serve as Chair of the Audit Committee.
- Met with auditors from the firm Burr, Pilger and Mayer to review the fiscal year 2011 audited financial statements and approved the audit as presented.
- Accepted the AUPO FCC's recommendation to appoint Dr. Hans Grossniklaus as Review Committee Chair, Dr. Jennifer Thorne as Review Committee Vice Chair, and Dr. Michael Belin as Vice Chair of the AUPO FCC Board of Managers effective July 1, 2012.
- Decided to continue sending letters twice per year to Deans offering guidance for new chair searches.
- Agreed to identify a presenter for any Young Ophthalmology programs that address careers at the Academy's Annual Meeting.
- Met with Dr. David W. Parke II to discuss issues concerning the OKAP exams. Approved March 30, 2013 for the next OKAP exam with Thursday and Friday, March 28-29 as alternatives for those who cannot take a Saturday exam.
- Accepted Dr. Parke's thanks on behalf of AUPO members for allowing residents to attend the Academy's Mid-Year Forum.
- Appointed Dr. Keith Carter and Dr. Nicholas Volpe to be AUPO's representatives for an initial planning session with the Academy to address the future of residency training programs. ■



**Association of University of Professors of Ophthalmology
Fellowship Compliance Committee
AUPO FCC**



THE AUPO FELLOWSHIP Compliance Committee (FCC) and the compliant fellowship programs were very active during the summer months. During the months of June – August the AUPO FCC monitors the compliance of individual fellowship programs using each of the subspecialty program requirements. As part of the monitoring process, graduating fellow exit surveys and program triennial reviews were conducted. In 2012 there were 57 reviews conducted and 273 exit surveys submitted. Results of continued compliance will be shared with each individual program and posted on the AUPO FCC website during the month of October.

AUPO FCC compliant fellowship programs are listed on the website www.aupofcc.org and on the San Francisco

Fellowship Match website, www.sfmatch.org.

Dr. Michael W. Belin was elected to serve as the Vice Chair of the AUPO FCC Board of Managers effective July 1, 2012. Additionally, Drs. Hans E. Grossniklaus and Jennifer E. Thorne were elected Chair and Vice Chair of the Review Committee, respectively.

What are you doing to let your residents know about the AUPO FCC process? In August, the AUPO FCC reached out to first- and second-year ophthalmology residents via an email blast. It was our purpose to inform them early in their ophthalmology education about subspecialty fellowships and the AUPO FCC process. We shared the current list of AUPO FCC-compliant programs and emphasized that by choosing a compliant program, residents could be assured that oversight of educational standards, accountability, and enforcement are being applied—with the primary objectives being protection of the public and protection of trainees.

| 2012 Triennial/Quadrennial Reviews Conducted | |
|--|----|
| CORNEA | 13 |
| GLAUCOMA | 2 |
| NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY | 2 |
| ONCOLOGY & PATHOLOGY | 0 |
| PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY | 8 |
| SURGICAL RETINA | 30 |
| UVEITIS | 2 |

| 2012 Exit Surveys Completed | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| CORNEA | 66 |
| GLAUCOMA | 55 |
| NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY | 16 |
| ONCOLOGY & PATHOLOGY | 4 |
| PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY | 67 |
| SURGICAL RETINA | 51 |
| UVEITIS | 14 |

| OPHTHALMOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS IN COMPLIANCE (August 1, 2012): | |
|---|----|
| Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus | |
| Programs in Compliance | 46 |
| Cornea Refractive Surgery and External Disease | |
| Programs in Compliance | 43 |
| Neuro-Ophthalmology | |
| Programs in Compliance | 16 |
| Glaucoma | |
| Programs in Compliance | 44 |
| Uveitis | |
| Programs in Compliance | 12 |
| Oncology and Pathology | |
| Programs in Compliance | 6 |
| Surgical Retina and Vitreous | |
| Programs in Compliance | 60 |

AUPO FCC OFFERS:

Educational standards
Protection of the public

Protection of institutions
Protection of trainees

Accountability and Enforcement

Please let your residents know about the AUPO FCC process!

For more information, visit www.aupofcc.org or send us an email at aupofcc@aao.org.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Dues News

RENEW YOUR DUES! Renewing AUPO members and associate members can pay dues using either a Visa, MasterCard, or check. Online dues renewal is encouraged! To pay online please login to My Profile located on the membership page of the AUPO website. Please contact the AUPO office at 415-561-8548 if you need to reset your username and/or password.

Medical student educators and research directors may now join AUPO as associate members. Information about the activities of the Council of the Medical Student Educators can be found on their dedicated website, www.aupomse.org. Please call the AUPO office at 415-561-8548 for an application. Encourage your medical student educator and research director to get involved with this growing part of our membership!

Annual meeting registration will open in October 2012.

If your 2012–2013 dues are still outstanding, members and associate members will not be able to register for the annual meeting and administrators will need to register as non-members. Contact the San Francisco office at 415-561-8548 or aupo@aa0.org if you have questions regarding your dues status. Contact Larry McGranahan at 319-356-2866 or larry-mcgranahan@uiowa.edu about your administrator dues status. The information needed to reserve a hotel room at the AUPO-negotiated rate will only be provided after registering for the annual meeting.

Annual Business Meeting

The membership is invited to submit agenda items to the Executive Vice President for consideration at the annual business meeting. Submissions of items of business in advance will allow full discussion of issues of concern by all AUPO members. ■

AUPO – New Member Updates

Chair

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--|
| Bishop, Frank | San Diego, CA | Naval Medical Center, San Diego |
| Cioffi, George | New York, NY | Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons |
| El-Defrawy, Sherif | Toronto, QB | University of Toronto |
| Girkin, Christopher | Birmingham, AL | University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine |
| Lee, Paul | Ann Arbor, MI | University of Michigan Medical School |
| Lee, Wiley | Morgantown, WV | West Virginia University Eye Institute |
| Mauffray, Randy | Lackland AFB, TX | San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium |
| McCole, Shannon | Norfolk, VA | Eastern Virginia Medical School |
| Patel, Sanjay | Rochester, MN | Mayo Medical School, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine |
| ten Hove, Martin | Kingston, ON | Queen's University |
| Wroblewski, Keith | Bethesda, MD | Walter Reed National Military Medical Center |

Program Director

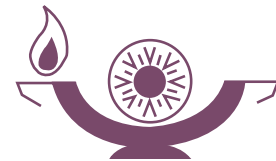
| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---|
| Darnley-Fisch, Deborah | Detroit, MI | Henry Ford Hospital |
| Lee, Jeffrey | La Jolla, CA | University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine |
| Miller, Neil | Baltimore, MD | Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine |
| Saidel, Michael | Chicago, IL | University of Chicago |
| Weikert, Mitchell | Houston, TX | Baylor College of Medicine |
| Winn, Bryan J. | New York, NY | Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons |

Medical Student Educator

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Francis, Courtney | Seattle, WA | University of Washington |
| Ksiazek, Susan | Chicago, IL | University of Chicago |

2012 Straatsma Award Recipient: Thomas A. Oetting, MD

AUPO WISHES TO CONGRATULATE **Thomas A. Oetting, MD**, as the recipient of the 2012 Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education. Dr. Oetting is currently the Residency Program Director at the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, University of Iowa College of Medicine. This award is sponsored by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and AUPO, and Dr. Oetting will make presentations at both Annual Meetings. ■





Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology

AUPO/RPB Resident and Fellow Research Forum

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2012

The AUPO Board of Trustees is proud to announce the **AUPO/RPB Resident and Fellow Research Forum**. AUPO was founded to promote excellence in ophthalmic education. The AUPO Board of Trustees believes strongly that skills learned by participating in research are an invaluable component of the education of an ophthalmologist. The establishment of the AUPO/RPB Resident and Fellow Research Forum is an acknowledgment by AUPO of the importance of research in ophthalmic education. The Forum is intended to encourage the most promising house officers to pursue a career in academic ophthalmology and vision research.

The AUPO/RPB Resident and Fellow Research Forum will be held during the annual meeting of AUPO. Residents or fellows, carrying out research on a full or part-time basis in any approved residency training program in the United States and Canada may apply to participate in the forum. Medical Students doing a full year of research may also apply. Research content should reflect ongoing or very recent research that has not yet been published or accepted for publication at the time of submission. Abstracts of research carried out by candidates should be submitted to Steven E. Feldon, MD, AUPO/RPB Forum Chair, at the address listed on the application. **The deadline for receipt of abstracts is October 1 each year.** Abstracts should be in ARVO format. **Please note: the introduction should contain a single sentence statement of the hypothesis, and the conclusion a single sentence statement of the relevance of the work to the prevention of blindness (why the study is therefore important).** The abstract must be accompanied by a supporting letter from the candidate's Department Chair and one-page curriculum vitae. The abstract should indicate the percent of "hands-on" effort of the abstract work actually performed by the candidate. No candidate may submit more than one abstract, although there is no

limit to the number of abstracts that may be submitted from any department. In general there should be only one submission from the laboratory or program of an individual scientific faculty preceptor. Applications across the full spectrum of ophthalmic diseases are encouraged. A winning presenter is eligible to present only once at an AUPO annual meeting. An AUPO Committee will review the abstracts and notify successful candidates by November 30. A maximum of 4 candidates will be chosen to present their research at the annual meeting.

Each year, AUPO schedules a session for the Resident and Fellow Research Forum as an integral part of the AUPO annual meeting. The 2013 Forum will be held at the Loews Coronado Bay, San Diego, California, on Friday, February 1, 2013. AUPO will be responsible for all travel-related expenses in keeping with AUPO reimbursement guidelines. The winners who present their research will receive a cash award of \$500 plus a commemorative certificate.

The AUPO Trustees and members wish to express their appreciation to Research to Prevent Blindness, and to its Board of Directors, for the generous grant to AUPO that has made possible the Resident and Fellow Research Forum. The AUPO Trustees hope that this forum will continue to promote excellence in research by residents and fellows and to identify and support those individuals considering a career in ophthalmic research. Additionally, this forum will serve to familiarize AUPO members with ophthalmic residents and fellows who show unusual promise for productive careers in academic ophthalmology. ■

The abstract form is available on the AUPO website at
www.aupo.org/awards/awards.html

FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SEPTEMBER 2012

For the most complete, up-to-date listing of faculty positions, with full descriptions, please visit the "Faculty Positions" section of www.aupo.org.

**Case Western Reserve University
School of Medicine
Department of Ophthalmology &
Visual Sciences, University Hospitals
of Case Medical Center**
■ Chairman

**Harvard Medical School
Department of Ophthalmology,
Massachusetts Eye and Ear**
■ Glaucoma Specialist

**University of Alabama at Birmingham
Department of Ophthalmology**
■ Glaucoma Specialist

**University of Florida, Gainesville
Department of Ophthalmology**
■ Assistant/Associate Professor of Corneal/
External Disease and Refractive Surgery

**University of Florida/Veteran's
Administration Medical Center
Department of Ophthalmology**
■ Veteran's Administration Medical Center
Chief of Ophthalmology

**University of Kansas Medical Center
School of Medicine
Department of Ophthalmology**
■ Comprehensive Ophthalmologist
■ Director, Medical Retina and
Vitreous Surgery
■ Surgical Retina/Vitreous Specialist

**University of Oklahoma Health
Sciences Center
The Dean McGee Eye Institute/
Department of Ophthalmology**
■ Clinician Educator
■ Pediatric Ophthalmologist

**University of Texas Health Science
of Houston
The Ruiz Department of Ophthalmology
and Visual Science**
■ Neuro-Ophthalmologist
■ Oculoplastic and Reconstructive Surgeon
■ Retina/Vitreoretinal Surgery Specialist

**University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center
Department of Ophthalmology**
■ Comprehensive Ophthalmologist

**University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center
Dallas VA Medical Center**
■ Chief of Ophthalmology

**University of Wisconsin
Department of Ophthalmology
and Visual Sciences**
■ Glaucoma Professor

**Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU Medical Center, MCV Hospitals
and Physicians**
■ Glaucoma Specialist



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