



# NEWS & VIEWS

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

FALL 2014

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

# The Roadmap to Success

BY EDUARDO C. ALFONSO, MD



As AUPO APPROACHES its fiftieth year of service, we have an opportunity to reflect on its mission statement as the roadmap to its success and future challenges:

“The mission of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology is to serve, strengthen, and represent academic departments of ophthalmology;<sup>1</sup> to provide support, information and leadership opportunities to departmental chairs, program directors, and other faculty members;<sup>2</sup> to promote excellence in ophthalmic education;<sup>3</sup> to foster vision research<sup>4</sup> and to promote ethical practice and excellence in eye care in order to ensure the best possible vision for the public.<sup>5</sup>”

How successful have we been in fulfilling the tenets of this mission statement and what are the challenges we are likely to see in future years?

**1.** AUPO has received high marks for its ability to serve, strengthen and represent academic departments of ophthalmology. National and international societies formed by our colleagues look to AUPO for leadership and guidance in matters pertaining to academic ophthalmology. One challenge for AUPO to consider is whether to keep within its current scope of serving U.S. and Canadian academic departments of ophthalmology, or to expand its scope by representing academic ophthalmology on a global scale. In partnership with our global academic partners, we will have to consider what other U.S.-based organizations like the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and the American Academy of Ophthalmology have done to play a role in

global ophthalmology. Increasingly, we are involved in issues that affect not only our present membership, but also international organizations that train ophthalmologists. The International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) is a valuable resource in the education of international residents and fellows. How will AUPO work with the ICO and other organizations that share similar goals?

**2.** We have been very proactive in designing programs that provide support, information and leadership opportunities not only to department chairs but also to leaders in other areas of academic ophthalmology such as research, education and administration. We need to continue to partner with organizations that provide leadership and guidance to ophthalmologists. Our members need to be “good citizens.” They

*continued on page 2*

## INSIDE

Program Directors Update . . . . .	2
Administrators Update . . . . .	4
Research Directors Council Report . . . . .	5
AOPMC Update . . . . .	8
The View from RPB . . . . .	9
BRAIN and NEI . . . . .	10
AAO Update . . . . .	12
AAO Mid-Year Forum . . . . .	13
San Francisco Match Update . . . . .	15
Resident Education Committee Update . . . . .	15
Faculty Positions Available . . . . .	22

President's Perspective  
*continued from page 1*

must maintain their participation as rank and file, as well as leaders in organizations that impact academic ophthalmology.

3. We promote excellence in ophthalmic education. Our ability as a group to protect and enhance the mission of educating the next generation of ophthalmologists forms the framework of programs endorsed by AUPO. The residency and fellowship match programs are examples of this type of activity. We need to be bold in looking at the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, such as the changing scope of clinical practice that brings trainees other than residents and fellows into the academic health center. We need to take a very active role in designing curricula that incorporate changes to the education of the academic ophthalmology team. This will be a specific focus of two symposia during the AUPO 2015 Annual Meeting taking place in Tucson, Arizona, January 29–31, 2015.

4. Vision research is at the core of AUPO's mission. Research creates new knowledge that not only improves patient care but defines what we teach the next generation of residents and fellows. Academic departments of ophthalmology are the breeding ground for clinician scientists who

dedicate their lives to this endeavor. There is no other organization which provides this opportunity to this group at such a large scale. Our challenge is to acquire and provide the resources needed to protect this valuable group.

5. AUPO continues to ensure excellence in eye care in order to protect the precious gift of sight. It is our daily mantra in academic departments of ophthalmology. We are an organization which carries the responsibility to chant this message every waking minute of an ophthalmology department's existence. We have done this well, and have received the respect of our patients in doing so. The challenge is the preservation of the mission of maintaining and promoting an ethical and moral clinical, research and education environment. It will be up to AUPO to continue to challenge others whenever we feel that government policies, regulations and statutory law are in conflict with our mission.

As we finish our first 50 years, we have upheld our mission statement through the efforts of many. I am confident that we will continue to do the same in future years. I am sure that we will look at challenges as opportunities for AUPO to get involved. Our annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona will continue to provide opportunities for all of us to actively participate in AUPO's mission. ■

## Program Directors Council Update

BY NATALIE KERR, MD

**THE PROGRAM DIRECTORS COUNCIL (PDC)** of AUPO is comprised of seven program directors, elected by the program director members of AUPO, and Dr. Keith Carter, who serves as our liaison to the AUPO Board of Trustees. The PDC serves the interests and needs of ophthalmic program directors, providing educational opportunities for program directors, policy development and implementation through work with major organizations affecting post-graduate training in ophthalmology, and advocacy for excellence in our training programs. As you plan your itinerary for the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) 2014 Annual Meeting and the AUPO 2015 Annual Meeting, please take note of the educational activities we have planned for you.

**AUPO-sponsored Teaching and Learning in Ophthalmology (TLO) Symposium at the AAO 2014 Annual Meeting:** This year's combined meeting symposium, "Leveraging Technology and the Educational Team," will be held at the AAO meeting in Chicago on Monday, November 18 from 8:30–10:00 am (McCormick

Place, Grand Ballroom S 100 C). Dr. Tara Uhler has prepared a high-yield, interactive session with three modules offered. Attendees will rotate among three tables:

- "The Educational Team: Managing Your Coordinator," Drs. Shahzad Mian and Tara Uhler
- "When and How to Introduce New Technology Into Training (Femtosecond Laser)," Drs. Bhavna Sheth and Thomas Oetting
- "Leveraging EMR for Quality Improvement Projects," Drs. Laura Wayman and R. Michael Siatkowski

At the conclusion of these table discussions, the group will reconvene and summary comments will be conveyed to all learners. The symposium will conclude with the Straatsma Lecture (congratulations to Dr. Laura Wayman, this year's recipient), and the inaugural Excellence in Medical Student Education Lecturer (congratulations to Dr. Linda Lipka):

*continued on page 3*

Program Directors' Council Update  
*continued from page 3*

- Straatsma Lecture: “The Role of Reflective Learning in Resident Development,” Dr. Laura L. Wayman
- Excellence in Medical Student Education Lecture: “Educating Referring Doctors of Tomorrow: Why Medical Student Teaching is Critical – *Today!*,” Dr. Linda S. Lippa

**Educating the Educators (EE) 2015:** The annual EE meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 28, immediately preceding the AUPO 2015 Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona. Drs. Bhavna Sheth and Michael Siatkowski are developing a program that targets the needs of the ophthalmology program director, including two featured talks: “Interviewing Residency Applicants,” (Dr. Laura Green, residency program director, Krieger Eye Institute, Baltimore, MD) and “Resiliency in Residency,” (Dr. Edward Callahan, associate professor and director of education services, emergency medicine, and residency program director, Medical College of Wisconsin). Free papers and a poster session will afford leaders in ophthalmic postgraduate education an opportunity to share their best practices and models for resident education. There will also be an update provided by liaisons from SFMatch, AAO and the Resident Hub, the Ophthalmic Knowledge Assessment Program, the Young Ophthalmologists section of AAO, the American Board of Ophthalmology, and Training Administrators in Graduate Medical Education.

**AUPO 2015 Annual Meeting—Residency Program Directors:** This year, in addition to our annual residency program symposium on Thursday afternoon, January 29, the future of residency education will be addressed in the major morning sessions (combined member and associate member sessions) that occur on Thursday and Friday (January 29 and 30). These presentations are the culmination of work performed by a joint committee, recently created by AAO and AUPO, charged with looking at the future of intern, resident, and fellow education. Two of our PDC members, Tara Uhler and Thomas Oetting, are among the members of this joint AAO/AUPO committee. The committee met in San Francisco earlier this year, and will be presenting two symposia at the morning sessions. One session will address changes occurring in medicine that affect resident education and the skills needed by the practicing ophthalmologist in 10 years. The other will include a debate over how to best utilize the time that interns, residents, and fellows spend in training. Audience interaction and participation will be used to garner collective and novel perspectives on this critical topic. Finally, the Residency Review Committee (RRC) of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education will present its annual symposium at a new time—Friday afternoon. So

you can see that this year’s AUPO meeting is packed with information from start to finish that is not to be missed, and the content planned for the meeting reflects the importance placed on supporting excellence in residency training.

**New Executive Director of the RRC:** Dr. Pat Levenberg stepped down last year as the executive director of the ophthalmology RRC. We welcome Mary Joyce (MJ) Turner as the new executive director.

**Your Program Directors Council:** Many thanks to Tara Uhler for her outstanding leadership as the president of the PDC in 2013–2014. Perhaps too often we hear the attribution of “tireless efforts” thrown around as an accolade, but Dr. Uhler’s work on behalf of the PDC and the associate member program directors of AUPO has been truly tireless and nothing short of amazing, to the benefit of all who are associated with ophthalmic residency training. I thank her in advance for her continued efforts as an adviser and mentor to me during this coming year. The PDC and program directors have benefitted from the visionary leadership of the AUPO Board of Trustees, and the board and Dr. Bartly Mondino continue to involve the PDC in decisions that affect residency programs. We said goodbye to Stephen Moss this year after years of critical assistance in PDC operations, but we are fortunate to have Lisa Brown’s continuing guidance and welcome Amber Mendez to the AUPO team. The PDC exists to serve the needs of program directors, the committed leaders in each of their respective departments who provide the foundation for ophthalmology’s future by training tomorrow’s leaders. We are inspired by your efforts and value your input. Please help us remain relevant to your needs by providing feedback and sharing your ideas for future efforts, whether they are for continuing education topics or policy/advocacy issues. Please contact me ([nkerr@uthsc.edu](mailto:nkerr@uthsc.edu)) or any member of the PDC with additional questions, concerns, or suggestions. And if you are not on the PD listserv ([eyepdnet@aaolistserver.aa.org](mailto:eyepdnet@aaolistserver.aa.org)), please contact the AUPO office at [aupo@aa.org](mailto:aupo@aa.org).

**New Program Directors 2014:** Please join us in welcoming the new program directors listed on page 20 of the newsletter.

**PDC Members 2014-2015:** The past president rotates off of the Council each year, and a new member is elected. PDC members must have at least two years of experience as a PD and be prepared to serve a seven-year term. In the late fall, nominations for membership are solicited via email. Please consider serving.

Past President: Dr. Tara Uhler, [tuhler@willseye.org](mailto:tuhler@willseye.org); President: Dr. Natalie Kerr, [nkerr@uthsc.edu](mailto:nkerr@uthsc.edu); President-Elect: Dr. Thomas Oetting, [thomas-oetting@uiowa.edu](mailto:thomas-oetting@uiowa.edu); At-Large Members: Dr. Laura Wayman, [laura.l.wayman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:laura.l.wayman@vanderbilt.edu), Dr. Shahzad Mian, [smian@med.umich.edu](mailto:smian@med.umich.edu), Dr. Bhavna Sheth, [bsheth@mcw.edu](mailto:bsheth@mcw.edu), and Dr. Michael Siatkowski, [rmichael-siatkowski@dmei.org](mailto:rmichael-siatkowski@dmei.org). ■

# Administrators Update

BY JOHN P. MEADE, MPH

It's exciting, and a privilege, to begin my first year as president of the University Administrators of Ophthalmology (UAO). We are facing significant challenges to fulfill our patient care, research, and education missions, in an environment of major health reform and severely limited resources. We are extremely fortunate to have an organization like UAO that has administrator members with such a wide range of experiences and knowledge. The need to learn, share and network with each other during these challenging times is more critical than ever before.

The UAO Board recently held its summer board meeting where it reviewed the survey results from our 2014 conference held in Miami. The feedback provided by our membership was extremely valuable as we planned for the 2015 conference to be held in Tucson, Arizona from January 29–31.

The 2015 program will begin with our administrators' welcome reception on Wednesday evening. The Thursday session will begin with a program that looks at the future of ophthalmology, identifying the focus areas and implications for administrators. That will be followed by a session on patient access and then a working lunch featuring our List Serve Live, built around many of the key issues facing all of us. We will set aside Thursday afternoon for our annual social outing for the administrators.

Friday morning will begin with the President's Symposium with the chairs and a presentation on residency education. This will be followed by sessions in the following areas: 1) ophthalmic technicians and certification; 2) telemedicine and ophthalmology picture archiving and communication systems with electronic medical records; 3) branding, reputation, marketing and physician engagement; and 4) patient satisfaction vs. clinical productivity. Saturday morning will start with a session on ophthalmic reimbursement/revenue enhancement to be followed by our annual "What's in My Backyard" presentations. The conference will adjourn with our UAO business meeting.

Bob LaFollette of Ohio State University is the UAO Board of Directors Vice President for 2014–2016 and will lead the planning and recruiting of speakers for these sessions. There will also be a seat on our board available next spring. The election will take place at the 2015 Annual Meeting. 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 UAO. Best wishes to all for a happy and successful remainder of 2014. I look forward to seeing you in Tucson in January. ■



# Research Directors Council Report

BY SCOTT COUSINS, MD

**GREETINGS!** I am pleased to have succeeded Mark Petrash as the second President of the AUPO Research Directors Council (RDC). Following in the footsteps of Mark's dynamic and creative leadership will be daunting, but I hope to continue his efforts to improve upon the attendance, visibility and activity of research directors in the AUPO annual meeting. The goal is to make attendance at the annual meeting valuable from not just a networking perspective, but also to stimulate new scientific collaborations and to advocate for research in ophthalmology departments. I hope that all ophthalmology department research directors are encouraged to attend this year!

## Two Major News Items

First, we have elected a new member to the RDC, Dr. William Brunken. Bill received his degree from SUNY Stony Brook in 1983, and pursued training at New York University School of Medicine and Washington University in Saint Louis, MO prior to his recent appointment at Upstate Medical University, as professor of ophthalmology (primary) and professor of neuroscience and physiology (secondary). In addition, he was appointed to the post of the director of the Center for Vision Research. Bill held faculty positions at Boston College, Tufts University and SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Bill studies the cellular and molecular understanding of the role of retinal laminins and netrins. He has extensive experience in academic leadership and research mentoring. Bill will be a tremendous addition to the council.

The second news item is that Dr. Mark Rosenblatt will be leaving the RDC prematurely. Why? Because Mark has been appointed as chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Congratulations, Mark! Since you will still be attending the annual meeting, you can be assured that the RDC will call upon you to assist with our forums.

## 2015 Joint Research Symposium

This year's meeting in Tucson, AZ promises to be an exciting and informative meeting for ophthalmology research directors. The joint symposium with the entire AUPO attendees is entitled "Big Data and Ophthalmology." This topic addresses the emergence of informatics analyses of various large databases and how they will serve as research tools and influence public health policy. The topic of "Big Data: Clinical

Databases" will be addressed by Dr. Russ Van Gelder from University of Washington, who will review the American Academy of Ophthalmology efforts to establish a large clinical database with the IRIS project. Dr. Aaron Lee, a young faculty member at the University of Washington, will provide examples of eye projects from the British NHS database using cutting edge informatics techniques. "Big Data: Personalized Medicine" will be addressed by Dr. David Calkins from Vanderbilt, who will review his institution's personalized medicine initiative. Dr. Milam Brantley, who is intimately involved with the Vanderbilt initiative, will provide examples of eye-specific projects. In addition, we will have two discussants. One discussant will review the strengths and potential weaknesses of big data analyses. The other discussant will address big data projects that might be program relevant to the NEI and might serve as potential funding for investigators in ophthalmology. This symposium should be informative and timely.

## Research Directors Workshop

Each year, the Research Directors Council also holds a workshop targeting topics of specific interest to research directors. This year's topic, "How AUPO can be an Advocate for Research in Clinical Departments," will discuss a range of topics to include: how research directors can better outreach and partner with other academic societies (like the various clinical subspecialty societies); how to interact and influence the agenda of our lobbyists; how to identify opportunities for core and training grant funding for eye departments; creative ways to partner with industry; and other ideas that our membership may bring to the meeting! We invite the suggestion of additional items and will be recruiting speakers.

## Annual Membership Meeting

As usual, we will hold our membership meeting during the annual meeting. The agenda is still being formed, but will include a discussion of topics for next year's symposium and workshop, the process by which we need to elect a new council member to replace Mark and other topics of importance and interest. Please contact me if you have an agenda item.

In closing, I am excited to assume the leadership of the Research Directors Council for the next two years. I hope to see my colleagues from other departments at the 2015 Annual Meeting. ■

# Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology

2015 Annual Meeting, January 28–January 31 • JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort – Tucson, AZ

## Preliminary Schedule

### Wednesday, January 28

- 7:00 am - 8:00 am New Program Directors Breakfast
- 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Educating the Educators Meeting
- 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Educating the Educators Reception

### Thursday, January 29

- 8:00 am – 8:15 am Welcome
- 8:15 am – 11:00 am Educating Ophthalmologists for the Future Part 1: Where Do We Stand and Where Might We Be Going?  
*Current state, applied forces, and words from the wise*
- 11:00 am - 11:30 am Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education Presentation and Lecture
- 11:30 am – 11:55 am Excellence in Medical Student Education Presentation and Lecture
- 11:55 am – 12:00 pm Presentation of American Academy of Ophthalmology Commitment to Advocacy Award
- 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Residency Program Symposium
- 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Members & Guests Welcome Reception

### Friday, January 30

- 6:45 am – 7:45 am Breakfast with Colleagues Networking Roundtables
- 7:50 am - 10:15 am President’s Symposium in Memory of Steven M. Podos

- Educating Ophthalmologists for the Future Part 2: How to Get There  
*Details, proposals and discussions about the ideal internship, residency and fellowship experience*
- 10:45 am - 11:45 am AUPO/RPB Resident and Fellow Research Forum
- 11:45 am - 12:25 pm Organization Reports (Part I)
- 12:25 pm - 1:00 pm AUPO Business Meeting
- 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm Research Directors Membership Meeting
- 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm RRC Update Workshop
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Meeting the Milestones, Bucking the Trend
- 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Medical Student Education Roundtables
- 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Medical Student Educators Membership Meeting
- 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm Medical Student Education Reception and Banquet

### Saturday, January 31

- 8:00 am - 9:45 am Big Data and Ophthalmology Symposium
- 10:00 am – 11:05 am Organization Reports (Part II)
- 11:15 am – 12:45 pm Workshops and Discussion Groups
  - Outcomes Workshop
  - Research Workshop: How AUPO can be an Advocate for Research in Clinical Departments
  - Veterans Affairs Issues Workshop

## 2015 Annual Meeting IMPORTANT DATES

October 2014\*

Advance Registration Opens  
Housing Opens to Advance Registrants Only

January 9, 2015

Advance Registration Closes

\*Specific dates will be announced to the membership by email and posted on the AUPO website.

## Educating the Educators

### Wednesday, January 28, 2015

#### Preliminary Schedule

7:30 am – 8:15 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:15 am – 8:30 am	Welcome
8:30 am – 11:00 am	Updates from SF Match, OKAP, AAO YO, ABO, TAGME Free Paper Session
11:00 am – 12:00pm	<i>Fostering Resilience</i> Edward Callahan, MD, MS, Residency Program Director and Director of Education Services and Emergency Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm	LUNCH (included)
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Free Paper Session
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<i>Workshop on Interviewing Skills</i> Laura Green, MD, Residency Program Director, Krieger Eye Institute, and Laura Pearl, Director of the Center for Leadership and Professional Development at Lifebridge Health
4:30 pm	Wrap-Up/Adjournment
5:00 pm	Reception

## 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 Lisa Brown at [lbrown@aa.org](mailto:lbrown@aa.org).

## UAO Administrators

### January 29–31, 2015 Annual Meeting

#### Preliminary Schedule

#### Thursday, January 29

8:00 am – 10:00 am	FUTURE of Ophthalmology and How to Administer
10:00 am – 11:30 am	“Get ‘em in, Get ‘em on, Get ‘em out” – ACCESS Key to Success
11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Listserv Live – working Lunch and Hot Topics
2:15 pm	Administrators Social Outing

#### Friday, January 30

7:50 am – 10:15 am	AUPO President's Symposium Educating Ophthalmologists for the Future: How to Get There <i>Details, proposals and discussions about the ideal internship, residency and fellowship experience</i>
10:15 am – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am – 11:45 am	JCAHPO – Ophthalmic Technicians and Future Certification
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch on your own or Buddy lunch for new administrators
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Telemedicine and Ophthalmology PACS with EMR
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Make Your Case – Branding, Reputation, Marketing and Physician Engagement
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	What's the Sweet Spot – Clinical Productivity vs. Patient Satisfaction

#### Saturday, January 31

7:30 am – 9:00 am	Show me the Money – Ophthalmic Reimbursement
9:00 am – 10:45 am	My Backyard – focused presentations from selected eye centers
10:45 am – 11:15 am	UAO Business Meeting
11:30 am	Meeting Adjourned

## Program Coordinators January 28–30, 2015 Preliminary Schedule

### Wednesday, January 28, 2015

8:00 am – 4:30 pm Educating the Educators 2015  
 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Educating the Educators Reception  
 6:30 pm Coordinator Dinner\*

### Thursday, January 29, 2015

8:00 am – 8:30 am Welcome/Overview  
 8:30 am – 9:00 am RRC Update  
 9:00 am – 9:15 am NAS & Milestones  
 9:15 am – 10:00 am RRC Panel Discussion/Q&A  
 10:00 am – 10:15 am Break  
 10:15 am – 11:30 am Dr. Natalie Kerr Presentation  
 11:30 am – 12:00 pm Straatsma Award Presentation and Lecture  
 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch on Own\*  
 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm Residency Program Symposium  
 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm AUPO Members & Guests Welcome Reception  
 7:30 pm Coordinator Social Activity\*

### Friday, January 30, 2015

8:00 am – 9:00 am Mary Joyce Turner Presentation  
 9:00 am – 11:00 am Are We Ready: Tools and Tips to Keep Us Ready and Organized for the Next Accreditation System, NAS  
 11:00 am – 11:15 am Break  
 11:15 am – 11:45 am SF Match Update  
 11:45 am – 12:15 pm AUPO FCC Compliance Update  
 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch on Own  
 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Personal and Professional Development  
 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Survey Results  
 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm Break  
 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm TAGME Update and Recruiting for Certification  
 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Round Table Discussion  
 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm AUPO Reception and Banquet

*\*not included in registration fee*

# Association of Ophthalmology Program Managers and Coordinators Update (AOPMC)

BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

THE AOPMC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL is finalizing plans for the 2015 Annual Meeting. We have prepared a program focused on assisting program managers and coordinators in making efficient and effective transitions to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s new accreditation system. We encourage programs and departments to support their program managers’ and coordinators’ attendance at this important event. Over 50 program managers and coordinators attended last year and we hope to include more this year. Although information is shared throughout the year by our established email network, it is very important to share information in person and to create firm personal working relationships that can be leveraged

when needed. Part of our mission is to provide outreach, resources, and knowledge, and the success of that depends directly on the participation of all program managers and coordinators.

Nominations will be solicited by email later this year and voting will take place at the 2015 Annual Meeting to establish responsibilities for the 2016 Annual Meeting Planning Committee. Planning committee members will be appointed for one-year terms. We also continue to develop the organizational structure for the leadership of the organization as a whole and the roles, responsibility, and method of succession for the leaders.

*continued on page 9*



AOPMC Update  
continued from page 8

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Association of Ophthalmology Program Managers and Coordinators is to elevate ophthalmic education by promoting excellence in education program administration; to serve and to advocate for program managers and coordinators in their work

of contributing to and implementing the vision of program directors by providing support, information, and resources; to cultivate members by offering personal and professional development and leadership opportunities; and to nurture collaborative working relationships by integrating and sharing our knowledge, resources, and expertise. ■

# The View from RPB 2014

BY BRIAN F. HOFLAND, PHD, *RPB President*

**WITHIN ITS MISSION** “to preserve and restore vision by supporting research to develop treatments, preventives and cures” for all sight-threatening conditions, Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) seeks to strengthen and advance an excellent and diverse vision science research community and accelerate the growth of vision science. All of the activities our organization undertakes stem from that mission and those commitments.

Last year, we convened a special advisory group, comprised of chairs of departments of ophthalmology, to thoroughly review the RPB Grants Program. Our goal: to provide even more strategic funding with maximum impact. The process resulted in the revision and refinement of many of our grant awards to emphasize more strongly the support of truly game-changing, innovative research ideas; and we converted several awards from single- to multi-year grants to ensure funding continuity.

In every consideration of a new grant category or grant modification we adhered to several guiding principles: that we invest in the most promising people over projects; that we fund excellence; that we make a difference in both the level of knowledge as well as the trajectory of the researcher’s career; and that we maintain the flexible nature of an RPB grant.

At the same time, we developed more rigorous application and reporting criteria for grants, including the use of benchmarks for unrestricted department grants, established by the department’s chair at the time of application. Benchmarking—deemed crucial by the RPB Board of Trustees—will allow us to evaluate upward trajectory and productivity. (Guidelines and timeframes for all RPB grants can be found on the RPB website under the Grants tab.)

We have also explored other opportunities to maximize the impact of our grant making.

- A challenge grant from the Eye Sight Foundation of Alabama (ESFA) for a \$3.75 million endowed chair in vision research at the University of Alabama (UAB) at Birmingham was matched by RPB, with the contingency that an equal contribution by a private individual be secured—a condition that was met earlier this year. We see this project at UAB—with RPB providing one third of the costs of a substantial endowed chair that will carry RPB’s name—as a pilot effort that may serve as a model for other such partnerships, on a limited basis, involving a national request for proposals mechanism.
- We took a different approach with the distribution of one of our restricted endowments, increasing the award amount to \$100K and opening eligibility beyond the assistant professor level. We were so impressed by the response from top-level researchers that we decided to give five RPB Nelson Trust Awards for Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), and not just one. Our hope is that this group of excellent scientists will accelerate RP research toward treatments.
- We responded to a contributor’s request to apply their significant support to targeted stem cell research by partnering with the International Retinal Research Foundation in creating The Catalyst Award for Stem Cell Research Approaches for Age-Related Macular Degeneration. These three \$250,000 grants, payable across four years, are intended to provide venture capital and seed money to proposed high-risk/high-gain vision science research.

continued on page 10

## The View from RPB 2014

*continued from page 9*

Cross-award collaboration is strongly encouraged among the awardees in order to promote collective impact.

- RPB is co-sponsoring the annual Heed Foundation Residents Retreat, where outstanding residents, nominated by their department chairs and residency program directors, gather to discuss the transition to careers in academic ophthalmology with a range of faculty. Through this partnership, RPB is looking to help nurture and enhance the careers of young vision researchers at a critical juncture.
- RPB recommitted itself to one of its founding roles as an advocate for federally funded eye research, through public and congressional education. As part of a grant to the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR), we supported AEVR's joint effort with Research!America to conduct fresh polling about the public's attitudes on vision and potential vision loss. The findings were presented to the media at the National Press Club and were also incorporated into a congressional briefing, which we co-sponsored: *Aging Eye Disease Prevalence and Cost by 2050: How Vision Research Addresses this Challenge*.

Throughout this busy year, RPB did not lose sight of its role as a catalyst in vision research. As this publication was going to print, we conducted a historic convening of foundations and other funders in the vision research space with the intent of increasing communication and networking, exploring areas of strategic overlap and potential partnership, and generating collective impact. At that convening, we presented top-line findings from our just-completed national survey of the needs, strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. eye research community, conducted by Kevin Frick, PhD, a prominent health economist, vice dean for education and professor at Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School. We also will share findings from that survey in future communications.

At this point in my tenure, I truly appreciate the forethought with which RPB was designed. While building on our history and strengths, we are adapting our programs for a changing vision research field and incorporating innovations that will allow us to have greater strategic impact. With the rapid aging of the baby boomers, sharply expanding human needs will require increased and increasingly effective eye research. If we are to find creative ways to address this demand, RPB with its limited resources, must team up with capable collaborators, including AUPO, RPB's earliest partner. ■

## BRAIN and NEI Audacious Goals Moving Forward

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

TWO MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAMS have officially launched and are on a course to open new paths of discovery for the ophthalmology community: the National Eye Institute Audacious Goals Initiative (NEI AGI) and the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. Both initiatives are up and running, with a succession of new funding opportunities coming online over the next decade.

### AGI

The audacious goal of the NEI AGI is to regenerate neurons and neural connections in the eye and visual system. This goal emerged from a unique planning process that began when we

challenged scientists and the public to submit their best ideas for the future of vision research. The Audacious Goals Challenge—a prize competition—received more than 450 such ideas, which were pared down to a handful of themes that we explored at the February 2013 Audacious Goals Development Meeting. The audacious goal captures many of these themes, addresses challenges and opportunities in vision science, and holds promise for advancing new therapies to restore vision.

In January 2014, the NEI convened the AGI Target Working Group, which in consultation with the National Advisory Eye Council, refined the audacious goal to focus particular attention on photoreceptors and retinal ganglion cells lost to injury or disease. In April 2014, the NEI announced the first

*continued on page 11*

BRAIN and NEI  
*continued from page 10*

funding opportunity coming from the AGI: to develop new imaging technologies to support progress toward the audacious goal. Other funding opportunities will follow.

Implementation is key to the success of the AGI. We now have a charter in place, which articulates the roles and responsibilities of various AGI-related groups. The external AGI Steering Committee will consist of three to five leading researchers on a rotating basis, who will plot the scientific trajectory of the initiative. Present members include John Dowling, Harvard University; past AUPO president Mark Blumenkranz, Stanford University; and Pamela Raymond, University of Michigan. We are establishing an NEI office of the AGI to coordinate AGI activities. We also have a core group of NEI program staff—Donald Everett, Thomas Greenwell, Michael Steinmetz, and Cheri Wiggs—who will make recommendations for program funding mechanisms, based on input from the steering committee. This group is currently assessing the NEI research portfolio for projects with AGI relevance to identify crucial topic areas that may need additional funding in support of the AGI. We are planning a formal request for community input and a workshop this fall that will shape a new funding announcement, which we expect to release in spring 2015.

The AGI application review process will be handled separately from the traditional NEI review process. All applications to AGI mechanisms will receive scientific review and assessment for programmatic relevance. Applications will be reviewed as a group so that we can examine proposals for their potential to complement other projects. Indeed, we expect the AGI to open new avenues of discovery and create enabling technologies for investigators across the vision community.

As an aside, although the AGI will be a major focus for the next 10 to 15 years, the NEI remains committed to investigator-initiated research. Independent research has been the bedrock of the NEI since its inception and shall remain so for the foreseeable future.

## BRAIN

The BRAIN Initiative is an important, major scientific focus of the Obama Administration. As President Obama put it in April 2013 when he unveiled the initiative, “We can identify galaxies light years away, we can study particles smaller than an atom, but we still haven’t unlocked the mystery of the three pounds of matter between our ears.” The goal of the BRAIN Initiative is to produce a dynamic map of the neural circuitry of the human brain. This bold effort will greatly expand our understanding of how we experience the world around us and how the brain functions in health and disease.

The BRAIN working group, assembled by National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins, included members of the visual neuroscience community, including co-chair William Newsome of Stanford University, who is a vision-based neuroscientist. In June 2014, the BRAIN working group issued the plan for the BRAIN Initiative, which called for an investment of \$4.5 billion over the next 10 years.

A combined \$100 million has been committed to BRAIN for 2014: \$40 million coming from the NIH, and the remainder coming from the National Science Foundation and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The NIH will issue its first BRAIN Initiative awards by September 2014, and the NEI is among 10 NIH institutes and centers playing an active role. Some of the initial priorities identified by the BRAIN working group include characterizing the brain’s diverse cell types, charting connections within the brain, and linking neural activity to behavior. These questions should sound familiar to vision scientists. The retina is an accessible, compact piece of the brain that has its own elegant circuitry and a set of meaningful behavioral outputs—the ability to see shapes, motion, colors, faces and more. As the BRAIN Initiative moves forward, lessons learned from the retina and continued studies will help lead the way.

Goal-driven, high profile projects such as BRAIN and AGI engender high expectations. Both will require a concerted effort and long-term investment, and both offer the potential to transform the research landscape and create new lines of inquiry. ■

# Association of Veterans Affairs Ophthalmologists (AVAO)

BY JOY DIXON ROBINSON, MD, *President, AVAO*

THE AVAO, a non-profit organization, represents the concerns and interests of all ophthalmologists employed by the Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA). Our goal is to expand and ensure high quality eye care for our veterans. These VHA ophthalmologists, while providing outstanding clinical care, also partake in major research projects and educate residents, fellows and students across the nation. The AVAO Executive Board officers are Dr. Joy Dixon Robinson, president; Dr. Millicent Palmer, president-elect; Dr. Andrew Thliveris, treasurer; Dr. David Vollman, secretary; and Dr. Linda Margulies, past president. National VHA Ophthalmology Leadership includes: Dr. Glenn Cockerham, national program director of ophthalmology; Dr. Amy Chomsky, chair of the Surgical Advisory Board; Dr. Mary Lynch, chair of the Field Advisory Committee; and Dr. Mary Lawrence, deputy director of the Department of Defense (DoD)/VA Vision Center of Excellence.

Currently, there are 324 full-time equivalent ophthalmology residency slots sponsored by the VHA. AVAO activities involved sponsoring an ophthalmology resident from the Washington University School of Medicine to attend the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Mid-Year Forum and Advocacy Program. This opportunity provided an ophthalmology mentorship in advocacy which is important to both resident education and leadership development. AVAO President Dr. Joy Robinson attended the AAO Ophthalmic Advocacy Leadership Group meeting in Washington, D.C. in January 2014. This meeting for ophthalmic subspecialty and special interest groups provided a forum for discussion of important issues facing the ophthalmology profession. At the February 2014 AUPO meeting, Dr. Amy Chomsky, chief of ophthalmology at Nashville VA, chair of the VHA Surgical Advisory Board and associate professor of ophthalmology at Vanderbilt Eye Institute, gave a PowerPoint presentation on current aspects of the VHA.

From the surgical standpoint, over 48,000 ophthalmic surgeries are performed at the VHA, of which 41,000 (85%) are cataract surgeries. Ophthalmic Simulation Technology has become a major part of residency education and the VHA is on the forefront, with 34 VHA Medical Centers utilizing ophthalmic simulators (EyeSi Surgical Simulators) to train residents in skills transfer, enhance surgical techniques, and improve surgical competencies. The VHA

continues to promote national ophthalmology safety policies to ensure correct site and correct cataract implant surgery and has enrolled over 4000 patients in an Ophthalmic Surgical Outcomes Pilot Program. Data collected from these pilot sites into a cataract surgery registry will help to identify key elements for quality measures that could later be implemented nationally across the VHA. The Defense and Veterans Eye Injury and Vision Registry (DVEIVR), a DoD led initiative to provide the DoD and VA vision care community with a medical registry consisting of ocular clinical and related data to conduct longitudinal analysis with a focus on preventing vision related injuries, protecting and preserving the visual system, and restoring vision, was recently recognized for several awards. It was a top eight finalist for the American Council for Technology and Industry Advisory Council (ACT-IAC) "Igniting Innovation 2014 Showcase and Awards" and it was a finalist in two categories, Health Information Technology and Collaboration, for the 2014 ACT-IAC Excellence.Gov Awards.

From a research standpoint, there are currently two big research efforts affiliated with the VHA that need the partnership and/or participation of an academic center: the Horus Vision Restoration Project and the Chronic Effects of Neuro-trauma Consortium (CENC). Members of the Horus Vision Restoration Project are investigating the use of artificial vision to restore sight to those with traumatic ocular injuries. The goal is to provide prototype technology for human testing within five years that provides the ability to navigate, identify faces and objects critical to daily life, and read large print; and is economically feasible. The CENC is a coordinated, multicenter collaboration linking basic science, translational, and clinical neuroscience researchers from the VA, military, and academia to effectively address the long-term effects of mild traumatic brain injury and its diagnosis and treatment. The CENC has designated funding for research on the sensory system, including vision, and the principal investigator is a VHA physician. Also, VHA ophthalmologists have served as subject matter experts in a technology assessment workgroup report on the use of the femtosecond laser in VHA cataract surgery which was released in 2014, and in an evidence-based review on vision dysfunction associated with traumatic brain injury.

*continued on page 13*

## AVAO

*continued from page 12*

The AVAO invites AUPO members to attend our annual events at the AAO meeting in Chicago. On Monday, October 20, the AVAO will host its annual business meeting for active members at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. This meeting will take place from 7:00 am to 9:30 am to update VHA ophthalmologists on key issues in the VA. Next, at the convention center at 12:45 pm, there will be a VA/DoD noontime special event meeting: *Life Goes on After Traumatic Brain Injury*, featuring a special guest, news journalist Bob Woodruff, to discuss “Visual Impact of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Lessons Learned.” The afternoon will conclude

with a very special joint AAO/AVAO/Society of Military Ophthalmologists reception at the Hyatt Regency McCormick. These events provide an excellent opportunity for AVAO members to network with each other and AAO representatives. AUPO members with joint VHA appointments may request AVAO membership information by contacting [avao@aa0.org](mailto:avao@aa0.org). For individuals interested in joining the AVAO Executive Board, we are currently soliciting nominations for the Secretary and Councilor position. For information on this position please contact [avao@aa0.org](mailto:avao@aa0.org). We strongly encourage program chairs and residency directors to consider and promote AVAO membership amongst their faculty; especially those affiliated with VHA medical centers. ■

## AAO Mid-Year Forum 2014, 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 9-12, 2014, in my role as AAO councilor representing the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO). This was the 22nd Annual Mid-Year Forum, which includes a council meeting for all state representatives and all representatives of the subspecialty organizations. Once again, 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.

During **Congressional Advocacy Day**, ophthalmologists visited members of Congress and their staff. Priority messages were delivered on fair and stable Medicare reimbursement and on funding for the National Institutes of Health, specifically focusing on eye research at the National Eye Institute.

Many of the 153 Advocacy Ambassadors, sponsored by 42 societies, participated in Congressional Advocacy Day. Almost three dozen state societies, nine subspecialty/specialized interest societies and several training programs ensured the success of this year's Advocacy Ambassador Program. Mid-Year Forum events for ambassadors included a briefing and reception where young ophthalmologists could meet and mingle with Academy leaders, plus a debrief session after Congressional Advocacy Day. The latter event focused on how to take the messages back home to stay involved in advocacy. Several ambassadors gave video interviews about the pearls and lessons learned from their experiences.

The **Mid-Year Forum** included an opening session, a general session, two hearings and a closing session. The opening session featured, “From Volume to Value: Finding Balance in a Changing Reimbursement Landscape.” Physician payments based on value rather than volume is commonly suggested as the solution for the increasing costs of healthcare. Evolving laws and regulations for alternative payment models will impact how physicians and facilities are reimbursed for their services. This session focused on the latest news regarding Medicare and private plan alternative payment models and examined the factors driving changes in the marketplace.

There were a number of high priority objectives of the session. This included discussing that efforts to drive quality improvement and measure performance have been rudimentary and flawed, but such efforts are here to stay, and specialty societies have opportunities to help drive measurement development and quality improvements that are relevant to their specialties. Additionally, the Academy has actively ensured that its members have been able to achieve quality incentives and will be a driver of future efforts in moving payments from volume to value through its development of the IRIS™ registry. Finally, clinical data registries will play an important role in measuring performance and helping to drive quality improvements.

There were four hearings. “Cloning, Coding, Compliance: Managing the New Risks of EHRs,” and, “Strange Bedfellows—the Promises and Perils of Healthcare Integration,” ran concurrently, as did “Survey Says . . . Lessons

*continued on page 14*

AAO Mid-Year Forum 2014

*continued from page 13*

from the Biennial Member Survey,” and “Think Global: Dispatches from the Wide World of Ophthalmology.” The closing session, “Crunching Your Numbers: Big Data Beyond the Registry,” focused on big data in healthcare, particularly ophthalmology. Electronic health records, medical imaging data sets, epidemiological studies, and clinical data registries are all being mined for information and associations between multiple and disparate factors. This session examined how the U.S. healthcare system can effectively obtain and use big data to achieve the following objectives: 1) become the healthcare system of the future that both provides and quantifies excellent care to improve outcomes; 2) ensure that all of a patient’s providers have access to the same information; and, 3) provide effective, efficient, evidence-based care for more patients. A major focus of the session was the IRIS™ Registry (Intelligent Research in Sight), the nation’s first comprehensive eye disease clinical registry which the Academy is developing as part of the profession’s shared goal of continual improvement in the delivery of eye care.

**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 the board to consider and prioritize. The council produces CARs, which are recommendations to the board about the specific issues, programs, and/or products on which to focus.

The AAO Council met for the final two days of the meeting. The council meeting provides state council representatives and subspecialty organizations an opportunity to submit CARs to AAO regarding issues of concern to AAO members. At the April 12 CAR hearing, four CARs were discussed, and three CARs were referred to the board for further consideration. The CAR Hearing Report can be reviewed at <http://www.aao.org/about/governance/council/upload/2014-CAR-Hearing-Report.pdf> for the outcomes of the discussions. The BOT met to discuss the referred CARs, all of which were approved. Progress of the CARs throughout the year can be followed via the CAR online database at <https://secure.aao.org/apps/Default.aspx?tabid=409.2014>; CAR submissions will be available January 1. Special appreciation is extended to Maryland’s Dr. Sanjay D. Goel and Dr. Justine R. Smith, of the American Uveitis Society, who commendably served as chair and co-chair, respectively, for the CAR

hearing. Dr. Ann A. Warn, and Dr. Mathew W. MacCumber, serve as council chair and vice-chair, respectively.

At the Council Subspecialty/Specialized Interest Section meeting, Dr. Cynthia A. Bradford, the AAO Senior Secretary for Advocacy, provided an overview of the January 2014 Ophthalmic Advocacy Leadership Group (OALG) meeting. Topics covered included compounding, military physician travel, and the Carrier Advisory Committee. The outcome recommended in this presentation was to make sure that each society is represented at the 2015 OALG meeting.

The Council Subspecialty/Specialized Interest Section meeting also included the discussions “Alternative Payment Models” by Dr. Michael X. Repka, AAO medical director for Governmental Affairs, “Personal Perspectives on the Experience of University of Washington as an ACO” by Dr. Russell Van Gelder, professor and chair, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Washington, “An Update from the RUC” by Dr. George Williams, AAO secretary for Federal Affairs, and “Outcomes & Opportunities: March 28, 2014 Joint AAO & FDA Workshop Development Novel Endpoints for Premium Intraocular Lenses (IOL)” by Dr. Paul Sternberg Jr., AAO past president.

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 once again 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 critical role of the Surgical Scope Fund. AAO, in concert with state ophthalmology societies, has been able to reject optometry surgical initiatives.

CAR 14-03, Board Transparency and Council Relevance, generated a great deal of discussion. Many councilors were concerned that the board discounted Council’s role by not seeking council input on the AAO2AAO issue in advance of its decision. As a result of CAR 14-03, the Academy formed a new task force. The group will address improved communication between the council and the board. AUPO’s Russell N. Van Gelder, as AAO president elect, is an ex-officio member of this task force.

AUPO was strongly represented at this meeting by Drs. Paul Sternberg, Jr., AAO past president, Russell N. Van Gelder, John Sutphin, councilor for the American Board of Ophthalmology, and James Tsai, councilor for the American Glaucoma Society. Finally, during the Spring meeting your AUPO AAO councilor was elected section representative to the Academy Nominating Committee. My term begins on January 1 and ends on December 31, 2015. ■

# San Francisco Match Update

BY DENNIS THOMATOS AND TIM LOSCH

**NOW IN OUR 37TH YEAR** of partnership with the ophthalmology residency match, the San Francisco Matching Program (SF Match) continues to engage program directors and applicants in improving the matching experience for both programs and applicants.

Our new in-house application distribution portal which was developed last year is now being used to serve the ophthalmology residency and fellowship matches. The limitation on the number of applications that programs can download at one time has been removed, providing a better workflow for programs.

Applicants can now upload their final application in just a few seconds, a task which used to take several minutes of time in prior versions. We also completed the update of our medical school and applicant portal, giving a new look and uniform feel to all portals and enabling us to standardize support for all users.

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

The planned timeline for Match Day is as follows:

## Tuesday, January 13, 2015

4:00 am PST — Applicants and Medical School Deans' 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 Deans' 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 14, 2015

8:00 am PST — Applicants' results available online.

## Thursday, January 15, 2015

8:00 am PST — Full match results of all applicants who have applied to programs will be available online.

9:00 am PST — Programs with unfilled positions will be listed as having vacancies on the website unless otherwise requested by the respective unmatched programs. ■

# AUPO/American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Resident Education Committee Update

BY THOMAS OETTING, MD AND NICHOLAS VOLPE, MD

**IT HAS BEEN NEARLY THREE DECADES** since our profession has paused to reflect upon how to best educate and prepare the next generation of ophthalmologists for practice in an increasingly complex environment—one that involves a growing population, an exponential need for increased knowledge, and changes in delivery of care. Together, AUPO and AAO have formed a Resident Education Committee to study this issue and make suggestions about where we need to go and how we might get there. The committee, led by Drs. Tom Oetting and Nicholas Volpe, had its first meeting in July and developed a plan. The committee was carefully charged by Drs. David Parke and Bartly Mondino to consider all aspects of ophthalmology training, to “think big,” to remove our institution- and situation-specific “hats,” and to provide guidance, advance bold concepts, and present these topics for discussion

at the 2015 AUPO Annual Meeting. Additional committee members included Drs. Eduardo Alfonso, Anthony Arnold, Louis Cantor, Keith Carter, Oscar Cruz, Bartly Mondino, David Parke, and Tara Uhler. There was a collaborative spirit working towards the goal of improving training to address future needs. The ultimate product will be a “white paper” that describes the ideal future training program, which will be drafted, shared, and then modified in conjunction with discussions at the upcoming AUPO meeting. This meeting will have two symposia with external experts and ample time for discussion. Initial focus will be on the big picture and where things currently stand, followed by a presentation on the “ideal” future and how to get there by modifying internships, residencies and fellowships in ophthalmology. Don't miss this critically important discussion and the chance to opine. ■

## AUPO Board Meeting Highlights

August 1, 2014

- Approved topics for the 2015 meeting symposia.
- Selected Fort Lauderdale, Florida as the 2016 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting site.
- Appointed Drs. Eduardo Alfonso and Julia Haller to lead the anniversary meeting plans.
- Conducted interviews of candidates for the Executive Vice President position.
- Approved Dr. Laura Wayman, Vanderbilt Eye Institute, as the winner of the 2014 Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education.
- Approved Dr. Linda Lippa, University of California, Irvine, as the winner of the 2014 Excellence in Medical Student Education Award.
- Requested the Program Directors Council consider the benefits of opening associate membership to associate program directors.
- Approved replacing the printed membership directory with an online directory in 2015 and agreed that only AUPO and UAO members whose dues are current will be included in future directories.
- Designated funds to revitalize the AUPO website in 2015 and create a members only section.
- Considered an update on the development of a voluntary resident demographics survey.
- Discussed ways to encourage residents to decrease the number of programs to which they apply.
- Appointed Dr. Russell Van Gelder to lead a task force that will identify appropriate uses of AUPO-stewarded data.
- Accepted a proposal from the American Academy of Ophthalmology to present a new Advocacy Support Award at AUPO's annual meetings.
- Added a 'moment of silence' to honor AUPO members who passed away during the year to future Annual Meeting schedules; members will be reminded periodically to notify the AUPO office of such news.
- Noted that the Research Directors Council held a recent election and announced that Dr. William Brunken had been elected as a member-at-large to the council; other changes include Dr. Scott Cousins is now the president, Dr. Mark Petrash is past president, and Dr. David Calkins is president-elect.
- Received the following updates from Dr. David W. Parke, II, MD, CEO and EVP, American Academy of Ophthalmology:
  - Due to increased international interest in the Resident Hub it will be moved to O.N.E. on January 2015, making access free.
  - The Ophthalmology Job Center, a free service to members, is the largest single source for matching residents and fellows with jobs; AUPO members are encouraged to utilize this service. ■

### 2014 Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education

**Laura L. Wayman, MD**



AUPO wishes to congratulate Laura L. Wayman, MD, as the recipient of the 2014 Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education. Dr. Wayman is currently the residency program director at the Vanderbilt Eye Institute, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee. This award is sponsored by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and AUPO, and Dr. Wayman will make presentations at both annual meetings.

### 2014 Excellence in Medical Student Education Award

**Linda S. M. Lippa, MD**



AUPO congratulates Linda S. M. Lippa, MD, as the recipient of the first Excellence in Medical Student Education Award. Dr. Lippa is the director of medical student education and associate clinical professor at the University of California, Irvine. This award is sponsored by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and AUPO, and Dr. Lippa will make presentations at both annual meetings.





**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 2014 there were 71 reviews conducted and 300 exit surveys submitted; this represents an increase of 8 reviews and 22 exit surveys over 2013. Results of continued compliance will be shared with each individual program and posted on the AUPO FCC website during the month of October. All AUPO FCC compliant fellowship programs are listed on the website [www.aupofcc.org](http://www.aupofcc.org).

2014 Triennial/Quadrennial Reviews Conducted	
CORNEA	14
GLAUCOMA	18
NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY	5
ONCOLOGY & PATHOLOGY	6
PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY	15
SURGICAL RETINA	4
UVEITIS	9

2014 Exit Surveys Completed	
CORNEA	74
GLAUCOMA	63
NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY	22
ONCOLOGY & PATHOLOGY	2
PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY	52
SURGICAL RETINA	72
UVEITIS	15

*Are you letting your residents know about the AUPO FCC process?* The AUPO FCC recently reached out to first- and second-year ophthalmology residents via an email blast 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.

**AUPO FCC OFFERS:**

- Educational standards
  - Protection of institutions
  - Accountability and Enforcement
  - Protection of the public
  - Protection of trainees
- Please let your residents know about the AUPO FCC process!**

For more information, visit [www.aupofcc.org](http://www.aupofcc.org) or send us an email at [aupofcc@aao.org](mailto:aupofcc@aao.org).

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Compensation Survey

The results of the 2012 AUPO compensation survey are available to members only for purchase. To order the report, please contact the AUPO office for an order form. The signature of the department chair as confirmation of knowledge of the request for the report and agreement to maintain confidentiality is required. Contact AUPO at [aupo@ao.org](mailto:aupo@ao.org) or call (415) 561-8548.

### Dues News

**Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues!** Not sure if your dues have been paid? Please login to the My Profile section of the AUPO website or contact Ket Tapia ([ktapia@ao.org](mailto:ktapia@ao.org)) to confirm your current status. Renewing AUPO members and associate members may pay dues using either a Visa, MasterCard, or check. Online dues renewal is encouraged! To pay online 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** are invited to join AUPO as associate members. Information about the activities of the Medical Student Educators Council can be found on their dedicated website, [www.aupomse.org](http://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!

### University Administrators of Ophthalmology (UAO)

According to the UAO Bylaws, membership dues are payable by January 1 of each year. A \$25 late fee must accompany payments made after January 1. Members who pay their dues by December 31 qualify for the member's reduced registration rate for the following annual meeting. UAO dues payments should be made by check to the UAO Treasurer and payable to UAO. UAO is not able to accept credit card payments. A membership renewal form and a new member application form can be located on the AUPO website: <http://www.aupo.org/about/uaoh.html> UAO dues payments should be mailed to:

Larry McGranahan  
UAO Membership  
Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
200 Hawkins Drive 11136 PFP  
Iowa City, IA 52242-1091

### Member Directory

The 2014–2015 edition of the AUPO/UAO Member Directory will be mailed in October. Please keep our records current by submitting updates every time you have a change in chair, program director, research director, medical student educator, or administrator by sending an email to Ket Tapia ([ktapia@ao.org](mailto:ktapia@ao.org)). As always, the accuracy of the directory is dependent upon information supplied by the membership. Keep AUPO and UAO informed!

### AAO Ophthalmology Job Center

Are you familiar with the Academy's Ophthalmology Job Center? This is a great resource for your recent graduates to post their resumé and make it easy for employers to find them. Visit the Academy's website at <http://www.ao.org/ophthalmologyjobcenter/index.cfm>.

### Fight for Sight Changing Its Grant Submission Date

After discussion with former Fight for Sight (FFS) grantees and members of its Scientific Review Committee (SRC) during the 2014 Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Conference, and further discussion at FFS's June Board of Directors meeting, it was decided to change Fight for Sight's annual grant application submission date to better meet the needs of applicants and to create a smoother grant review process.

There are a number of reasons for this change, among them an ability to announce FFS grantees annually at the ARVO Conference, to hold SRC meetings in a way conducive to greater member participation and to award its Summer Student Fellowships in a more timely way.

Fight for Sight's new grant application submission date, effective immediately, is: **November 15 at 12:00 AM.**

*continued on page 19*

Things You Should Know  
*continued from page 18*

This replaces the previous February 1 annual submission date.

To accommodate this change, *Fight for Sight's ScholarOne grant application site will be open to applicants beginning on Wednesday, October 1 at 9:30 AM.*

Fight for Sight's 2015 grantees will be announced at the ARVO Conference in Denver, Colorado.

## Call for Nominations — Board of Trustees

Dear Members,

In its continued effort to have your Board of Trustees reflect the membership of AUPO, the Nominating Committee is soliciting your input regarding the recommendation of future Trustees. Please submit names by Monday, January 5th for consideration by the Nominating Committee which will meet on Thursday, January 29, 2015.

Thank you,  
 Steven Feldon, MD  
 Past President  
 Chair, Nominating Committee

## Ophthalmology Residents Match Q & A

**Question:** Is it appropriate for applicants to send thank you letters, emails, or other forms of communication to programs after interviews?

**Answer:** *It is not inappropriate; but it is not encouraged or required.*

**Question:** Is it appropriate for programs to send thank you letters, emails or other forms of communication to applicants who interviewed with them?

**Answer:** *No.*

**Question:** What constitutes communication?

**Answer:** *Any form of communication.*

**Question:** If a program has important information to share with applicants after the interviews have been conducted can they send communication sharing that information?

**Answer:** *No. The information should be sent to the SF Match office. If it is determined to be appropriate for dissemination, the SF Match staff will disseminate to all applicants at the same time.*

**Question:** Can residency programs conduct preliminary phone interviews prior to inviting applicants for in-person interviews?

**Answer:** *Yes. ■*

## 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 postgraduate 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 postgraduate studies must be conducted in the United States. Deadline for receipt of applications is

February 1st for fellowships beginning in the same year. For information, please contact:

**Lisa Brown**  
**Heed Ophthalmic Foundation**  
**655 Beach Street**  
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## AUPO – NEW MEMBER UPDATES

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ten Hove, Martin	Queen's University	Kingston, ON
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Young, Teri	University of Wisconsin	Madison, WI

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Goshe, Jeffrey	Cleveland Clinic	Cleveland, OH
Gupta, Pankaj	Case Western Reserve University	Cleveland, OH
Kaufman, Adam H.	University of Cincinnati	Cincinnati, OH
Kloek, Caroline E.	Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary	Boston, MA
Lee, Michael S.	University of Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN
Martin, Taliva D.	California Pacific Medical Center	San Francisco, CA
Patel, Vivek	University of Southern California	Los Angeles, CA
Pettey, Jeff H.	University of Utah	Salt Lake City, UT
Shuba, Lesya	Dalhousie University	Halifax, NS
Stutzman, Richard	George Washington University	Washington, DC
Taravati, Parisa	University of Washington	Seattle, WA
Thliveris, Andrew T.	University of Wisconsin	Madison, WI
Weinberg, David V.	Medical College of Wisconsin	Milwaukee, WI
Winokur, Jules A.	The Hofstra North Shore-LIJ Health System	Great Neck, NY

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Pearlman, Eric	Case Western Reserve University	Cleveland, OH

### MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATOR

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Lao, Kenneth	Texas A & M University	Temple, TX
Nagi, Kundandeep S.	University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio	San Antonio, TX
Olson, Richard J.	University of Iowa College of Medicine	Iowa City, IA
Schrier, Amilia	Lenox Hill Hospital	New York, NY
Shah, Ankoor S.	Harvard Medical School	Boston, MA
Shahidi, Mahnaz	University of Illinois at Chicago	Chicago, IL
Shamie, Neda	University of Southern California	Los Angeles, CA
Wilson, Lorri	Oregon Health and Science University	Portland, OR



Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology

## AUPO/RPB Resident and Fellow Research Forum

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2014**

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 AUPO 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 four 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 2015 forum will be held at the J.W. Marriott Starr Pass Hotel in Tucson, Arizona, on Friday, January 30, 2015. 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](http://www.aupo.org/awards/awards.html)

## FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

*For the most complete, up-to-date listing of faculty positions, with full descriptions, please visit the "Faculty Positions" section at [www.aupo.org](http://www.aupo.org).*

**Albert Einstein College of Medicine and  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences**  
Vitreous-Retinal Surgeon

**Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine  
Department of Ophthalmology**  
Glaucoma Faculty with  
Endowed Chair Available

**Drexel University School of Medicine  
Department of Ophthalmology**  
Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full Professor—  
Glaucoma Specialist  
Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full Professor—  
Cornea Specialist  
Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full  
Professor—Generalist

**Medical College of Wisconsin  
Department of Ophthalmology**  
Assistant/Associate Professor—  
Pediatric Ophthalmology

**New York-Presbyterian  
Weill Cornell Department of Ophthalmology**  
Attending Position in Glaucoma

**Ochsner Health System  
Ochsner Medical Center, Department of Ophthalmology**  
Oculoplastics—Oncologist

**Oregon Health & Science University  
Casey Eye Institute**  
Comprehensive Ophthalmologist

**University of Florida  
Department of Ophthalmology**  
Vitreous-Retinal Surgeon

**University of Iowa College of Medicine  
Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Science**  
Comprehensive Ophthalmology Faculty Position  
Neuro-ophthalmology Faculty Member  
Pediatric Ophthalmology Faculty Position

**University of Kansas  
Department of Ophthalmology**  
Medical and Surgical Vitreoretinal Specialist

**University of Missouri  
Department of Ophthalmology**  
Pediatric Ophthalmologist, Academic  
Glaucoma Specialist  
Vitreous-Retinal Specialist

**University of Pennsylvania  
The Department of Ophthalmology,  
Perelman School of Medicine, Scheie Eye Institute**  
Assistant/Associate Professor—Glaucoma

**University of Vermont  
Fletcher Allen Health Care**  
Comprehensive Ophthalmologist  
Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon  
Academic Retina Specialist

**UT Southwestern Medical Center  
Department of Ophthalmology**  
Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor

**Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center  
Department of Ophthalmology**  
Vitreoretinal Specialist  
Pediatric Ophthalmologist

## EULOGY

## Ronald E. Smith, MD

BY BARTLY J. MONDINO, MD



AT 5 AM ON MARCH 17, 2014, my cellphone emitted the annoying “Droid” sound indicating a text message. At that moment I knew without even reading the text that ophthalmology lost a great leader and academician.

Ronald E. Smith, MD, our friend and colleague, was an accomplished clinician-scientist whose achievements are legion. His research and clinical expertise centered

in external eye disease, cornea and uveitis. He was a recipient of National Eye Institute grant support, served on Study Section, and authored more than 300 scientific publications. He was past president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and served for more than 10 years on the Academy Board of Trustees. He was past chair and board member of the American Board of Ophthalmology and was a member of honorary societies, including the American Ophthalmological Society, Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis and the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars. He received numerous awards including the Light Award from the Braille Institute of America, the Gold Medal of the International Uveitis Study Group, the Castroviejo Medal of the Cornea Society, and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He served as chairman of the USC Keck School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology from 1995 to 2013. He resigned from the USC faculty in November 2013 and became medical director of the Doheny Eye Institute (DEI) preparatory to joining the UCLA faculty as vice chairman at the Doheny Eye Center-UCLA.

In addition to his academic achievements, Ron was noted for his personal qualities. His demeanor was always friendly, engaging, gregarious, humble and humorous. He was a joy to be around and provided welcome relief in difficult situations.

I never knew him to be mean-spirited, and he elicited the best in everyone.

I first met Ron in 1981. When I was being recruited to the Stein Eye Institute, I was told that I must speak with Ron Smith at Doheny-USC. I met Ron and Suzette for the first time in a small restaurant in Hollywood. From that day forward, Ron befriended me. Our friendship was cemented by our tour of duty together on Study Section.

You could always count on Ron for support. When I needed a letter for promotion or whatever, he was always there with the first and strongest letter on my behalf. He was extremely generous and supportive in this way. He saw the best in all of us.

Ron and I communicated and met regularly before and during our two decades as chairs of our “rival” departments. I put rival in quotes because nothing could be further from the truth in terms of ophthalmology. Our organizations worked together, supported mutual projects, and collaborated in research and education. Our hostile encounters, and there were many, were confined exclusively to the football field or basketball court where UCLA and USC enjoyed a fierce rivalry. One of the highlights of my year was our annual UCLA-USC basketball game together at Pauley Pavilion to which he would bring Drs. John Irvine, Alfredo Sadun, or his son, Matt, who graduated from UCLA Medical School.

We worked even closer together as the affiliation between UCLA and Doheny began to be envisioned and evolve. In one of our many discussions, I confided to Ron that I was having trouble sleeping and asked him if he was having the same. He immediately retorted in his inimitable style that he was having no trouble sleeping because he knew I was awake worrying for the two of us. One of his last communications to me and others shortly before his passing was “take care of it.” Many, many times he expressed to me his future plans: ensure the successful transition of DEI to UCLA and then become a full-time grandfather for his cherished grandchildren.

Oddly enough, the same morning and shortly after Ron’s passing, a 4.4 earthquake hit Los Angeles. ■

# SAVE THE DATE

*for the 2015 AUPO Annual Meeting*  
**January 28–31, 2015**



**JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass**  
**Tucson, Arizona**



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