

Keeping POS Sted

Fall 2020

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings, all! I sincerely wish I could be speaking with you in person, but for now I am limited to print and virtual means. A year ago, I wrote in this newsletter about many positive aspects I anticipated to be part of my first year of presidency and mentioned a reference to the smash musical *Hamilton*. Who would have guessed, one year later, that Broadway and much of the country would be closed down and a mysterious virus would be controlling our lives? In general, though, ophthalmologists tend to be a resourceful group, and I must applaud everyone for making the necessary changes to keep our businesses alive and to serve our patients who need our care. That remains the most essential issue – people still need ophthalmic care during these times, and they rely on us to provide that quality care!

The COVID virus has certainly created the worst of times, but it often is these circumstances that create opportunities that are otherwise not possible, or overlooked in our busy schedules. After the initial shock and scram-



David G. Buerger, MD, FACS
President
Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society
2019-2021

bling to decide how to maintain the practice, the extended time off allowed me to spend meaningful time with my family that would never have happened otherwise. I got a taste of retirement life that seemed great for a few weeks, but then realized I'm just not quite ready for that! It also was a stroke of luck in timing that the shutdown coincided with our renovation and move to our new main office in Shadyside. I'm not sure the transition would have been as smooth with full days of patients.

These difficult times reminded us of the value of our organized

medicine groups. The PA Academy of Ophthalmology and American Academy of Ophthalmology provided constant information about practice management and maintaining safety in the workplace. The Allegheny County Medical Society organized distribution of PPE and group ordering for necessary supplies. The POS friendships that we value were helpful in making sure we were following the right course. Behind the scenes, all of these groups were busy lobbying the government for regulatory and financial assistance for our practices.

Now it is time to determine how to move forward. We will all experience many changes in the months to come, and it will be important to steer these changes in a positive direction. One of the biggest values of POS is our monthly meetings, which include time to meet and discuss issues in person. The questionnaire input that we received overwhelmingly confirmed that value. Although we will be limited for the months to come, our intention is

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to return to our format of in-person meetings as soon as safely possible. As most of you know, the ACMS has sold the building, which was our home for many years. After an extensive search for a new meeting place, we have decided to hold our meetings at the Rivers Casino. That provides us a beautiful, roomy meeting space in a central location with excellent food at a price that we felt was very rea-

sonable. Access to the meeting space will be very easy once the new hotel opens in the next few months. Until we are able to safely meet there, we are making arrangements for virtual meetings to maintain our mission of providing quality CME education for our members. Our speakers are all ready to educate us, whether the meeting is virtual or live.

As we weave our way through

the next months of uncertainty, we will keep you informed of our plans for each meeting and other important news. So far, our September and October meetings will be held online. I hope to see you all in person very soon!

Please thank Nadine Popovich for all the hard work she continues to provide to the POS and for her insight in making these transitions much easier for us all.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to all who renewed their dues for 2020. Our membership slightly increased from 166 members in 2019 to 173 members in 2020. A breakdown of membership includes: 110 active members; 28 residents and fellows; and 35 retired honorary members.

As you know, the POS is an integral part of our ophthalmology community, providing valuable education to its members as residents, fellows and faculty. Recruitment of members is important and strengthens the organization. If you know of an ophthalmologist who is not a member of the POS, or if you are welcoming a new physician to your practice, please contact Nadine Popovich, who would be

happy to send an application for membership. Non-members also are welcome to attend one of the monthly meetings. I encourage you to invite a non-member to a meeting to reconnect with the Society. Physicians who meet the criteria are welcome, as a guest of a member, to attend one monthly meeting of their choice. Ms. Popovich can assist with registration and outline criteria for attendance (npopovich@acms.org).

Welcome to the following new members: Michael Lewen, MD; Christopher Spearman, MD; Deepam Rusia, MD; Bilal Yousufzai, MD

Eric A. Pennock, MD

PITTSBURGH OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY

WWW.PGHOPH.ORG

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues statements will be sent electronically October 1. Yearly dues are \$375 and are instrumental in defraying the cost of providing quality educational programming each month.

For your convenience, credit card payments can be submitted online. Members can visit www.pghoph.org and log in to their account. A membership renewal notification will appear with instruction on how to remit payment online. You also may contact Nadine Popovich to process your credit card. The Society accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Checks also are accepted and can be made payable to Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society.

Thanks to your continued support and submitting dues in a timely manner, we remain an active and strong specialty organization, providing quality programming and collegial social opportunities while advocating to protect and enhance our profession.

Virtual Meeting Lectures Available on Website

We are including guest faculty lectures from each virtual meeting on the POS website. Although **no CME is awarded** for viewing the recordings, the lectures are available to all members who are unable to attend a program.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Although the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 Annual and Ophthalmic Personnel meeting (a strong revenue source), the Society account balances remain stable.

For the 2019-20 monthly meetings series, overall expenses were slightly lower than in the previous year. Thank you to members for registering for each meeting, as this impacts catering fees (we have a more accurate meal count for catering when members register, which keeps

our costs to a minimum). The Society also relies on vendor support to reduce costs. Vendor support increased from the previous year, and we are working to secure 100% support for the upcoming 2020-21 monthly meeting series.

Membership dues also are instrumental for a positive operational account, and 2020 membership dues trended upward. POS membership is an excellent value, not just for the CME credit, but for the updates on local and national is-

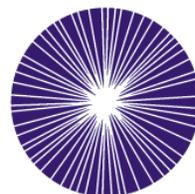
sues, and the opportunity to hear distinguished national faculty at monthly meetings. I encourage all members to extend an invitation to their colleagues to join.

Through a continued effort to expand membership and strong focus on identifying sponsorship for support of the annual and monthly meetings, we look to continue to remain solvent for 2020-21 and the future.

Laurie A. Roba, MD

AAO RESOURCES

Practical advice for ophthalmic practices to manage patients with COVID-19 and keep their offices running during the new coronavirus pandemic. A few of the links below will direct you to log in to your American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) account.



AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY®

COVID-19 Webinars

Reopening and Recovery Resources

Log into your AAO account, <https://secure.aao.org/aao/Login>, to access the following:

- [Reboot Your Practice: Post-COVID-19 Recovery Roadmap for the Ophthalmic Practice](#)
- [Reopening and Recovery Tips](#)
- [Ophthalmic Ambulatory Surgery Center Reopening Guidance](#)

Financial and Employment Considerations

A roadmap to all Academy-produced resources on loans and grants, financial relief and tips for small businesses facing the crisis.

- [Financial and Employment Considerations Tip Sheet](#)
- [Private Equity, COVID-19 and Rent Payments](#)
- [Investment Analysis and Planning by Jim Hiles](#) (PDF)

Telemedicine

- [Teleworking Considerations Tip Sheet](#)
- [Telemedicine Considerations Tip Sheet](#)

Coding and Reimbursement Considerations

- Video: [Coding for Telemedicine](#)



- Video: [What Constitutes E/M 99202 and 99212 Performed Via Telehealth?](#)
- Video: [What Constitutes E/M 99213 Performed Via Telehealth?](#)

Practice Operations and Safety Considerations

- [Stress Management Advice](#)
- [IT and Cybersecurity Considerations](#)
- [Pandemic Influenza: Continuity of Operations Plan \(COOP\), Sample](#) (PDF)
- Video: [How to Make a Slit Lamp Protective Shield in 2 Minutes](#)

Patient Handouts

- Coronavirus Eye Safety Procedures: [Download COVID-19 and Your Eye Care](#) (PDF)

PAO NEWS

POS member named President-Elect of PAO

POS Immediate Past President Sharon L. Taylor, MD, FACS, recently was named President-Elect of the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO), a 600-member state-wide association.



Dr. Taylor

Dr. Taylor has practiced comprehensive ophthalmology at North Park Ophthalmology in Pittsburgh since 1993.

She has served on the PAO Board since 2015. Dr. Taylor also served as Councilor and Alternate Councilor of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). Additionally, she has been a member of the POS Board of Directors since 2009.

Dr. Taylor is Physician Advisor for Quality, Surgery, UPMC Passavant; Division Chief, Ophthalmology, UPMC Passavant; and Co-Chair, UPMC System Health Information Management Committee.

With member physicians throughout the Commonwealth, the PAO strives to be the voice of ophthalmology; making efforts to ensure quality eye care on the legislative and regulatory fronts, while building and maintaining relationships with major insurance carriers within the state. For more information, visit www.paeyemds.org.

POS members represent PAO Leadership

The Society is pleased to recognize the following members who play an active role in the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) by serving in a leadership position. Our local representation is exceptional, and we are fortunate to have a dedicated group of colleagues who give of their time to better the professional interests of ophthalmology and our profession.

President-Elect
Sharon L. Taylor, MD, FACS

Immediate Past President
Robert L. Bergren, MD

Chair, Bylaws and Rules Committee

Michael J. Azar, MD

Secretary, Legislation & Representation

Kenneth P. Cheng, MD

Co-Secretary, Medical Practice and Payment System

Joel Brown, MD

AAO Councilors

Robert L. Bergren, MD, and Sharon L. Taylor, MD, FACS

Member at Large

Roger Zelt, MD, FACS

Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology



PITTSBURGH OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY

WWW.PGHOPH.ORG

PAO NEWS

Mark Your Calendar: [PAO CodeQuest Live Webinar](#) – September 10, 2020

"Coding Clarity in the COVID -19 Era"

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Presented by: Sue Vicchilli, COT, OCS, OCSR, Director of Coding and Reimbursement, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Join the most knowledgeable coding experts in ophthalmology for a half-day of professional education and training. We'll map out the latest coding updates and steer you through the complex maze of payers' rules, arriving at successful solutions for preventing claim denials and avoiding penalties.

Registration

- 1st Person in a Member Practice – \$275.00
Practice physicians are PAO members and you are the initial person in your practice to register
- Additional Person(s) in Member Practice – \$175.00
Practice physicians are PAO members and you are the 2nd, 3rd, person(s) from your practice to register
- Non Member – \$425.00

If you have any questions about CodeQuest or how to register, please contact Melanie at info@paeyemds.org.

POS OFFICERS & CHAIRS 2020-21

President
David G. Buerger, MD, FACS

President-Elect
Marshall W. Stafford, MD

Secretary
Joel D. Brown, MD

Treasurer
Laurie A. Roba, MD

Immediate Past President
Sharon L. Taylor, MD, FACS

Bylaws and Rules
Michael J. Azar, MD

Legislative
Kenneth P. Cheng, MD

Provider Relations
Joel D. Brown, MD

Membership
Eric A. Pennock, MD

Members At-Large
Robert L. Bergren, MD
Ian P. Conner, MD, PhD
Thierry C. Verstraeten, MD

Nominating
Sharon L. Taylor, MD, FACS

Public Relations
Constantine A. Balouris, MD

Thorpe Circle Administration
Michael J. Azar, MD

Allied Personnel Course Directors
Pamela P. Rath, MD
Avni P. Vyas, MD
Jared Weed, MD

Resident Appointment to Board
Jared Weed, MD

2020-21 RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

The members of the Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society welcome UPMC Eye Center new residents and fellows and acknowledge current faculty. We look forward to their participation at an upcoming monthly meeting. Congratulations to Sabrina Mukhtar, MD, selected as Chief Resident.

Dr. Mukhtar will coordinate resident presentations for each meeting.



Dr. Mukhtar

Resident appointment to the Board of Directors

Jared Weed, MD, third-year resident at the UPMC Eye Center, has been selected to serve as Resident to the Board of Directors. Dr. Weed will join course directors Pamela Rath, MD, and Avni Vyas, MD, to plan the 2021 Ophthalmic Personnel meeting.



Dr. Weed

2020-2021 Ophthalmology Residents and Fellows

First Year Class (2020 - 2023)



Peter Jones, MD



Ralitsa Loewen, MD



David Mora-Boellstorff, MD



Zachary Nadler, MD



Manuel Paez-Escamilla, MD



Tadhg Schempf, MD

Second Year Class (2019-2022)



Jennifer Adeghate, MD



Patrick Commiskey, MD



Ricardo Couso, MD



Zachary Koretz, MD



Julia Shatten, MD



Caroline Vloka, MD

Third Year Class (2020 - 2021)



Shelley Mo, MD



Sabrina Mukhtar, MD
(Chief)



Jamie Odden, MD



Lillian To, MD



Andrew Tran, MD



Jared Weed, MD

Fellow Class



Sohani
Amarasekera, MD
Retina



Susannah
Brown, MD
Plastics



Emily
Hughes, MD
Glaucoma



Jamila
Hiasat, MD
Pediatrics -
2nd Yr.



Erika
Massicotte, MD
Plastics - 2nd Yr.



Laura
Palazzolo, MD
Cornea



Hamza
Pasha, MD
Cornea



Boris
Rosin, MD
Retina - 2nd Yr.



Sarah
Ullah, MD
Glaucoma

THORPE CIRCLE

The Thorpe Circle welcomes Andrew Eller, MD. Dr. Eller contributed twice the normal membership fee in a show of generosity. It comes as no surprise that Andy supports the Thorpe Lectureship, given his long tenure as an educator of fellows, residents and medical students here in Pittsburgh.

As of August 1, 2020, the fund's balance stands at \$37,816.74 as compared to \$39,402.00 in the same time period last year. All monies are invested in the Vanguard Life Strategy Moderate Growth Fund. We have had no disbursements as we continue to push toward a goal of a \$50,000 corpus to allow a self-sustaining

fund. However, the POS faces increased costs when in-person meetings resume due to the loss of the ACMS building as a venue.

The Thorpe Circle, established in 2014, was created to offset the costs of the Thorpe Lecturer. Your donation strengthens the fund and enables the POS to continue the tradition of excellence by inviting distinguished guest faculty to serve as the Thorpe Lecturer. Donations may be in the form of an annual contribution, estate planning, by patients or family members in honor of an ophthalmologist (practicing or retired), or in memoriam. To join the Thorpe Circle or to donate as a Sustaining Member

(category for current Thorpe Circle members) please visit www.pghoph.org and click on Thorpe Circle to download the donation form.



Your gift ensures your legacy as one devoted to the recognition of academic and clinical excellence in ophthalmology.

Mike Azar, MD
Administrator, Thorpe Circle

Founding Members, Est. 2014

Michael J. Azar, MD
David J. Baker, MD
Chris A. Balouris, MD
Dr. & Mrs. Constantine A. Balouris
Ivan Baumwell, MD
Robert L. Bergren, MD
Peter J. Berkowitz, MD
Albert W. Biglan, MD
Richard A. Bowers, MD*
Joel D. Brown, MD
Daniel E. Buerger, MD, FACS*
David G. Buerger, MD, FACS
George F. Buerger, Jr. MD, FACS
Brian J. Caputo, MD
Edward J. Chang, MD
John A. Charley, MD
Kenneth P. Cheng, MD
Phillip H. Choo, MD
Lisa M. Cibik, MD, FACS
Garry P. Condon, MD
Ian P. Conner, MD, PhD
P. William Conrad, MD, PhD
Bernard H. Doft, MD
Norman L. Edelstein, MD, FACS
William M. Fronczek, Jr., MD*
Denise S. Gallagher, MD
Jean C. Harwick, MD

Karen B. Lauer, MD
Cari Lyle, MD
John C. Maher, MD
John M. Mikulla, MD
Miroya J. Monsour, MD
Donald Morris, DO
Barry D. Moskowitz, MD
Karl R. Olsen, MD
Paul M. Phillips, MD
Scott L. Portnoy, MD
Allan J. Press, MD
Pamela P. Rath, MD
E. Ronald Salvitti, MD*
Joseph J. Scherer, MD
Michael P. Schneider, MD
Joel Schuman, MD, FACS
Marshall W. Stafford, MD
Theresa B. Strong, MD
John C. Stuart, MD
Sharon L. Taylor, MD, FACS*
Thomas W. Uihlein, MD
Thierry Verstraeten, MD
Edmond C. Watters, MD
Evan Waxman, MD, PhD
Gary S. Weinstein, MD, FACS
Jeffrey T. Wincko, MD
Roger P. Zelt, MD

Continuing the Legacy

Roxana Barad, MD
Jennifer Salvitti Davis, MD
Andrew W. Eller, MD
Jared E. Knickelbein, MD, PhD
Lisa M. Nath, MD
Eric A. Pennock, MD
Laurie Roba, MD
Avni Vyas, MD

Continuing the Legacy In Memory, Recognition, or Appreciation

In Memory of Irwin S. Terner, MD
~ Sewickley Eye Group

In Appreciation of John A. Charley, MD
~ Mrs. Velma F. Ferrari

In Recognition of Frank Cignetti, MD
~ Staff of East Suburban Ophthalmic Assoc.

In Memory of Robert Arffa, MD
~ Sharon L. Taylor, MD, FACS*

In Recognition of John G. Krah,
ACMS Executive Director
~ Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society

* denotes Sustaining Member

Thank You

The COVID-19 crisis is still in full swing across the United States. Some students are now heading back to school, which presents a new set of fears and unknowns. I have no idea where we will be at time of publication, so I won't talk about theories, or treatments, or vaccines, or politics.

Instead, I want to thank each and every one of you for what you are doing and for what you are about to do, regardless of the course of this pandemic in our area. We may be hit hard; we may be relatively spared in the first wave only to be hit hard in the second as restrictions loosen. Nothing is certain except death, taxes, and now, uncertainty.

Thank you to the ED, ICU and Anesthesia physicians who are on the front lines risking their lives to treat patients. Thank you to all the Medicine generalists and specialists who are right there alongside. Thank you to the ENT physicians who risk it all with each trach, and to the OMFs. Thank you to the surgeons who risk exposure in the ORs. Thank you to the pediatricians who are coughed and sneezed upon, and thank you to the Ob-Gyns who deliver babies and stop bleeding and the Family physicians who see patients because the sched-

ule of human biology doesn't stop for a pandemic. Thank you to the psychiatrists for safeguarding the mental health of the public and healthcare workers alike. Thank you to the fellows and the residents who are stepping up before their time, and thank you to the senior medical students across the country who may be stepping up before even taking their oath.

Thank you to every physician who does anything in their power to help, whether or not it falls under the heading of clinical medicine. Thank you to all of you across the country who are advocating for patients, the public, nurses, hospital staff and each other in the face of PPE and medicine shortages. Thank you to each and every one of you who uses their social media influence to educate the public about the importance of staying home and wearing masks if going out is necessary. Thank you to each of you who see to it that rumors, racism and fearmongering are debunked while good information is widely disseminated.

Thank you to the research scientists among you who are working on vaccines and treatments. Thank you to the administrators among you who are working to keep your flocks safe in the midst

of this onslaught. Thank you to the public health physicians out there who are using your pulpits to steer the masses away from disaster. Thank you for the politically active among you who are making sure our elected representatives pass legislation to protect our ability to deliver care during and after the worst of this pandemic by keeping our practices and hospitals afloat.

Thank you to the CRNAs, the ICU and ED and floor and office nurses, the PAs, the respiratory therapists, the EMTs, surgical techs, all the unsung support staff everywhere and every last environmental services and cafeteria worker. Thank you to all of your families, for bearing the worry and the strain and the risk of having you out there in the fight. Thank you to every essential worker whether or not directly in healthcare. Thank you to the public, who trusts in all of us to do the right thing in their hour of need, and who may look at us all with a little more love when this is past tense.

Thank you. Be strong, be wise, be careful and be brave. Good luck, and may God protect us all.

Deval (Reshma) Paranjpe, MD, MBA, FACS

**This article was originally published in the April 2020 edition of the ACMS Bulletin.*

How's It Goin'?

The medical literature and lay press have noted high physician suicide and addiction rates and written about physician burnout increasingly over the past 10 years. The AAO, at the 2017 Mid-Year Forum, held a hearing focused on physician well-being, citing a 50% burnout rate among physicians. In 2019, UPMC created Physician Thrive (upmcphysicianthrive.com) to address physician burnout, recognizing this as a critical issue in healthcare. The current president of the PA Medical Society, Lawrence John, MD, said in his inaugural address that highlighting and seeking solutions to the physician burnout crisis was his primary goal for his presidency. ... Then along came the Novel Coronavirus.

Internationally, there has been a great deal of reporting about those in underserved areas without adequate ventilators or PPE being at high risk for illness themselves as well as for moral injury, emotional exhaustion, and post-traumatic stress. In a recent presentation, cardiologist Jennifer Berliner, the co-chair of the UPMC Physician Thrive Committee, discussed additional concerns worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic that impact

UPMC healthcare providers. She noted that it is not surprising that front line workers have unique concerns about the risk of exposure to themselves and their family members, having access to appropriate personal protective equipment and coping with grief and loss. A prominent theme in her team's work, and less well recognized, is sidelineer guilt. This refers not only to people who didn't fall ill when others did, but also to people who feel they weren't able to impact the problem. Among physicians who were sidelined rather than put on the front lines (for example due to employer rules, their particular training and jobs, or their own high risk status), a significant number struggle with feelings of helplessness in the face of an all-hands-on-deck crisis. Even those nowhere near the front lines may be suffering psychological trauma.

In ophthalmology, we have all levels of involvement. Some ophthalmologists in New York City and other hot spots volunteered to work in the critical care units with remote support from critical care physicians. Some closed their practices completely. Some, most notably

retinal specialists, remained open, caring for patients whose ongoing medical and surgical care was critical to maintaining vision. Overall, however, our specialty is likely to be well represented among those feeling helpless to impact the crisis while also struggling to keep their patients, staff, families, and selves safe and cared for. Personal and professional demands make this time extremely challenging. Most of us will not have these feelings rise to the level of severe distress or suicidal ideation, but many will find support systems are critically important to navigating the upheaval we are all experiencing.

This is a time for everyone in our community to be especially supportive and thoughtful of each other. Our usual in-person professional gatherings have all been cancelled or switched to virtual platforms. There are fewer opportunities to have the personal conversations with colleagues that often take place before meetings, during breaks, and after meetings. These chats are an important way, perhaps unknowingly, that we provide needed community and connection. Individuals may feel distanced from their usual support and

may not even realize they are suffering from its absence. Many impacted by physician burnout and depression are not able to identify or respond to symptoms themselves. External prompting may help them recognize their need for interventional support. I urge everyone to reach out to friends and colleagues to check in. Actively make a space for this important role you play in our community. If a colleague calls or reaches out to you at a bad time, make a point to return the call when you have a moment to really listen and talk.

Self-care is also important. A single Google search returns dozens of physician burnout resources. Information is available from all the major health systems and national physician organizations including AAO. Free links and apps for stress management, resiliency training, meditation, yoga, mindfulness, and self-awareness abound. Most health insurances also have customer support phone lines for their clients, which include crisis management and coaching. If you are employed, the employee health and wellness contact information should be available through your human resources department or website. If you are on staff at a hospital, the medical staff offices have access to support and contact information, as would your chief medical officer.

If you are an employer, consider checking what resources may be available to yourself and your own employees and make that information readily available.

We are still deep into this crisis and likely will be for months to come. Every person you come across, and every person you don't, is affected by this pandemic in many ways. Just acknowledging the additional stress, regardless of our particular roles, is helpful. Physician burnout is only made worse by these additional stresses. Many resources are readily available, and we should become an additional resource where possible by guarding against any one of us suffering alone. Recognizing and responding to burnout, in all its possible manifestations, is critical to successfully navigating through this difficult time.

Additional resources:

- Physician Wellness has its own tab on the AAO website; visit: aao.org/member-services/physician-wellness.
- ACMS has partnered with Cranberry Psychological Center, Inc., to provide free, anonymous counseling emergency or non-emergency sessions to Allegheny County physicians. Non-emergency sessions can be scheduled during regular business hours under the leadership

of Richard G. Frey, PhD, ABPP, clinical director. To make an appointment or for more information, call Dr. Frey at 724-772-4848, ext. 225.

- Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) has responded to this and other needs with bi-weekly virtual Sunday night "Cocktails and Conversation." These are informal Zoom meetings where we talk about practice issues or concerns that arise during the week. It's an opportunity to learn how different parts of the state and different practices and departments are managing issues. We have discussed State and Federal programs that might be available to be tapped into and learned from each other's application experiences. We chat about our successes, problem-solve as a group, and sometimes just celebrate getting through another week of the pandemic. Any member is welcome. It's a nice way to put names and faces together.

You can find the link to join PAO and register for a virtual cocktail party at PAEYEMDS.org, or email info@paeyemds.org with any questions. Participants say it is a helpful and enjoyable experience, and we would love to have you there, too.

Sharon L. Taylor, MD, FACS
President-Elect, PAO

2020-21 Monthly Educational Series Hybrid Programming and New POS Meeting Location

Mark your calendar for the 2020-21 monthly educational offerings hosted by the Society. A total of five monthly meetings and the Annual Spring Meeting comprise the academic calendar. All meetings are CME accredited.

NEW MEETING LOCATION!

After an extensive search of numerous venues in and around the Pittsburgh area, we have selected The Rivers Casino to host future POS meetings. It was difficult to find a venue that replicates the Allegheny County Medical Society in terms of price, value and location, but the banquet rooms in the Rivers Casino fit most of our meeting needs.

The ballroom is extremely spacious and offers a picturesque view of the Ohio River and North Shore. The Rivers Casino, located in a central location, offers free and valet parking, and once the hotel, “The Landing,” is open, a separate entrance to the ballroom will be available.

The Rivers hospitality team will work to ensure safety measures and best practices are in place by adhering to the health guidelines set forth by the CDC, the



The Ohio Room at the Rivers Casino, where in-person meetings will be held for the 2020-21 Monthly Educational Series.

Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) and the City of Pittsburgh.

HYBRID PROGRAM OFFERINGS

A hybrid of virtual and in-person meetings will be offered, beginning with virtual meetings for September 10 and October 8. The remainder of the meetings are currently scheduled as in-person programs. If deemed necessary, we will pivot to a virtual meeting for those scheduled as in-person.

Guest Faculty lectures from each

virtual meeting will be uploaded to the POS website for viewing. **Although no CME is awarded for viewing the recordings,** we hope this is a valuable offering to those who cannot attend a meeting.

ZOOM PLATFORM TO HOST VIRTUAL MEETINGS

We are using the Zoom Platform to facilitate our virtual meetings. It is important to use the same email you used to register to enter the Zoom meeting. We will use your email to confirm your attendance. Details will be addressed in the monthly meeting notice.

Announcing Guest Faculty for the 2020-21 Season

Thursday, September 10 (Virtual Meeting)

– Christopher D. Riemann, MD, Cincinnati Eye Institute Volunteer Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati, Department of Ophthalmology Director, Vitreoretinal Fellowship & Member, Clinical Governance Board, Cincinnati Eye Institute Ophthalmology Section Leader, Bethesda North Hospital.



Dr. Riemann

Dr. Riemann specializes in medical and surgical vitreoretinal diseases including diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal detachment, retinopathy of prematurity, vascular diseases of the retina, uveitis, histoplasmosis, complications of anterior segment surgery, endoscopic posterior segment surgery, and ocular trauma in collaboration with the other Retinal Surgeons at Cincinnati Eye Institute.

His original research in the fields of Ophthalmology, Cardiology, and Endocrinology has been published in international peer reviewed scientific journals and has been presented at national scientific meetings. He

NEW Times! VIRTUAL Meeting Agenda

- 5:00 p.m. – Welcome
- 5:05 p.m. – First Lecture – Guest Faculty
- 5:50 p.m. – Resident Presentation and Comments by Guest Faculty
- 6:10 p.m. – Business Meeting
- 6:20 p.m. – Visit with Exhibitors – This is your only opportunity to visit with exhibitors. All participants will be *placed* in an exhibit room with a chat function available for engagement. *Exhibitor support aids in offsetting meeting expenses. Please be sure to visit with our exhibitors during this session.*
- 6:30 p.m. – Visit with Exhibitor/Networking concludes. Attendees will be placed in the General Session.
- 6:35 p.m. – Second Lecture – Guest Faculty
- 7:15 p.m. – Conclusion of Program

has several patents for innovative surgical technologies and enjoys sharing his passion for the blend of engineering and medicine.

Thank you to Thierry Verstraeten, MD, for inviting Dr. Riemann and thank you to Vertical Solutions for supporting the program.

Thursday, October 8 (Virtual) – Kenneth A. Beckman, MD, FACS, Comprehensive Eyecare of Central Ohio Director, Corneal Services Westerville, OH.



Dr. Beckman

Dr. Beckman is a board-certified

ophthalmologist and cornea specialist. He has been practicing ophthalmology in Columbus since 1996 and joined Comprehensive Eye Care in July 2012 as Director of Corneal Services.

Dr. Beckman is a past president and past treasurer of the Columbus Ophthalmology and ENT society and a past member of the Board of Trustees for Prevent Blindness Ohio. Dr. Beckman is active in clinical ophthalmology research and has been involved in numerous clinical studies. He has published articles in ophthalmology journals and has presented his research at national meetings, such as the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. He was recently involved in two FDA trials for the

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treatment of keratoconus and corneal ectasia using collagen cross-linking technology.

Thank you to Deepinder Dhaliwal, MD, for inviting Dr. Beckman.



November – No POS Meeting / AAO 2020: Virtual (<https://www.aao.org/annual-meeting>)

Join the AAO online Nov. 13-15 for [AAO 2020 Virtual, Where All of Ophthalmology Meets®](#) for lively discussions, clinical pearls, fun activities and live interaction with presenters and industry.

Registration begins August 12th. To learn more, contact Meetings Department Staff: Business hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pacific Time, Tel.: 415.447.0320

General meeting-related questions: meetings@aao.org.

Meeting registration, proof of attendance and CME-related questions: registration@aao.org

Exhibition-related questions: exhibitions@aao.org.

Thursday, December 3, 2020 (In-person) - Roberta Gausas, MD, Director of Oculofacial and Orbital Surgery Division, Department of Ophthalmology Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA.



Dr. Gausas

Thank you to David Buerger, MD, FACS, for inviting Dr. Gausas.

January 7, 2021 (In-person) –INDER PAUL SINGH, MD, Glaucoma Specialist, The Eye Centers of Racine and Kenosha Racine, WI.



Dr. Singh

Throughout his Ophthalmology career, Dr. Singh has been involved with clinical research and has published papers in several ophthalmology journals. He has also presented his research at various national meetings and universities.

He has brought several new technologies to the Racine and Kenosha areas and was the first one in Wisconsin to implant the smallest devices in the human body, the iStent, for

the treatment of glaucoma. Dr. Singh has also pioneered the use of in-office lasers to remove visually significant floaters.

Recently, he was instrumental in bringing laser assisted cataract surgery to the area. He enjoys giving lectures and teaching seminars around the globe to help other doctors adopt these and other newer technologies and techniques.

Thank you to Ian Conner, MD, PhD, for inviting Dr. Singh and to Ivantis for sponsoring the meeting.

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 (In-person) - Faruk H. Öрге MD, FFAO, FAAP, William R. E. Althans Chair and Professor,



Dr. Öрге

Director - Center for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and University Hospitals Eye Institute Professor – Ophthalmology and Pediatrics Case Western Reserve University SOM; Fellowship Program Director; Associate Program Director - Ophthalmology Residency UH / CWRU SOM; Medical Director for Quality – UH Eye Institute.

Dr. Öрге is widely recognized for his clinical expertise and is listed in the Best Doctors of America (since 2009), Top Doctors (since 2011), and Who's Who (2014). Dr. Öрге has served on and led many committees (Online, Public Education, Program committees) of the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and has joined the AAPOS Board of Directors in 2018 as a director at large. He is an examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology and serves as the AAPOS liaison to the ABO.

His innovations in teaching include work with ORBIS/Cyber-sight, AAPOS, and the AAO, with interests in telemedicine, live webinars (first to produce national and international sessions in the field of ophthalmology), online journal clubs, and unique learning tools such as an interactive strabismus and retinoscopy simulators. He is the editor-in-chief for the AAO's newly formed KTEF Pediatric Ophthalmology Education Center; the largest online educational source in the world for pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, it has been visited more than 1 million times from more than 200 countries since its inception in 2015.

Thank you to Eric Pennock, MD, for inviting Dr. Öрге.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ALL MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Society will continue the online registration process for all monthly meetings (Virtual and In-Person). **Registration for each meeting is required.** Here are a few guidelines to register for each meeting:

- Visit www.pghoph.org and click on the "Registration is Open" link
- Follow the prompts; Select your registration type; and complete all information

• **A confirmation will be sent to the email you provide. If you do not receive a confirmation in your designated email, your registration was not completed.**

• **For Virtual meetings** – the Zoom meeting link will be included in the confirmation.

Feel free to contact Nadine Popovich, administrator, at npopovich@acms.org or (412) 321-5030 should you have any questions.

CME PROTOCOL TO SUBMIT PROGRAM EVALUATION AND OBTAIN CME TRANSCRIPT!

The Society continues to use AHN as our CME credit guarantor. Below is a refresher from the AHN Department of Credentialing to obtain your CME transcript after each meeting.

To receive CME Credit:

- All POS meeting attendees must log in with your username and password (or create an account) in the AHN

Continuing Medical Education website <https://cme.ahn.org> (instructions to create an account can be found on page 16).

• NOTE: if you are a physician affiliated with AHN/Highmark and have already established an account, you do not have to create another. POS transcripts will appear in your account.

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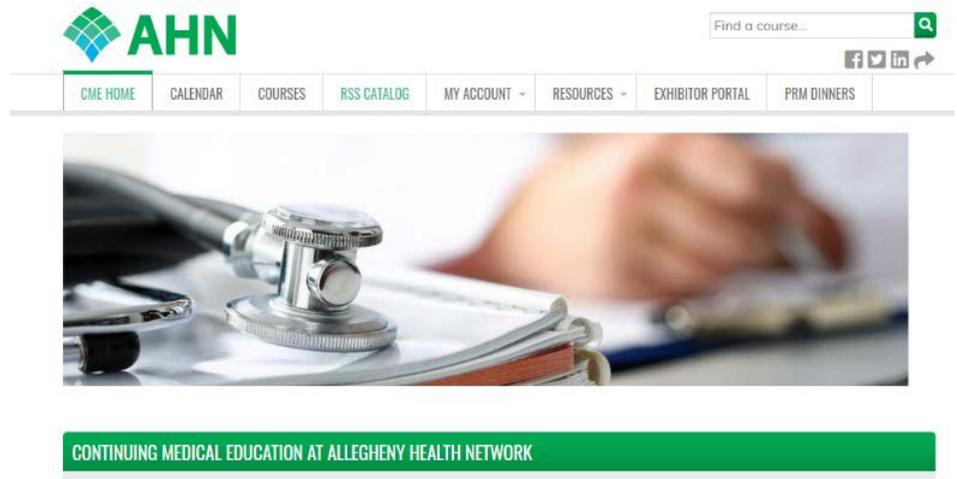
• You must complete the evaluation within 3 weeks from the date of the program to be awarded CME.

To establish / create your account

- Visit <https://cme.ahn.org>
- Click on “Register” in the top right-hand corner
- Complete the required information
- Email – Please use an email that you frequent as the email you designate will be used to send the evaluation link after each meeting.

To complete your evaluation after each meeting:

- **Evaluations will be available for completion 3 weeks from the date of the program.**
- Attendees will receive a notification from AHN that your evaluation activity is ready to be completed.



- Visit <https://cme.ahn.org>
- Log in with your username and password
- Once you log in, there will be a “Pending Activity” notification and link to complete the evaluation.
- Proceed with completing and submitting the evaluation.
- You will be able to access your transcript at this time.

To access your CME transcript:

- In order to access your CME Transcript, you must complete the evaluation first (See “Completing

Your Evaluation After Each Meeting” instructions above)

- Visit <https://cme.ahn.org>
- Log in with your username and password
- At the home page, you may access your transcript by clicking on the “MY ACCOUNT” tab at the top of the page.
- A series of options will appear – click on “MY TRANSCRIPT.”

Questions? Contact Nadine Popovich at npopovich@acms.org or (412) 321-5030

PITTSBURGH OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY

To act as the voice of ophthalmologic medicine in the Pittsburgh area, to serve as patient advocate in promoting preventive eye care, quality medical and surgical care and rehabilitative services for individuals with ophthalmologic diseases and to advance the knowledge, science and practice of ophthalmology, to assist in the improvement of the quality of ophthalmologic medicine and training therein, and to promote integrity in the practice of ophthalmic medicine.

Annual Meeting slated for March 12, 2021

The 56th Annual Meeting will take place Friday, March 12, 2021, at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center. David Buerger, MD, FACS, president, is pleased to announce Robert H. Osher, MD, has accepted the invitation as the 40th annual Harvey E. Thorpe Lecturer.



Dr. Osher

Dr. Osher is Professor of Ophthalmology at the College of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati and Medical Director Emeritus of the Cincinnati Eye Institute.

Dr. Osher is recipient of the Heed Ophthalmic Fellowship Award, the Maumenee Award, the Sheets Award, the Helen Keller Award, the de Schweinitz Award, the Ridley Award, the Rayner Award and the Arnott Award from England, the Canon Award from Japan, the Senior Academy Honor Award from AAO, the Lim Award from China, the Gold Medal Award from Australia, the Mooney Award from Ireland, the Nordan Lifetime Achievement Award, the Kelman Award from Greece, the Excellence Award and the Watson Award from Canada.

The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery has given Dr. Osher its two highest honors, the prestigious Binkhorst Medal and the Innovator's Award. He also has received the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Kelman Award, the highest honor given to a cataract surgeon by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and more recently the Kelman Award from the Brazilian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

He has designed many of the contemporary intraocular lenses and instruments used in cataract surgery, in addition to developing new techniques in this subspecialty. Dr. Osher's surgical videos have won more than 25 first-prize honors at the Ameri-

can, European, Asian and South American Cataract Societies including three Grand Prizes at ASCRS and ESCRS. He has delivered more than 100 named lectures to implant societies in more than 40 countries and he has contributed to a dozen textbooks in his subspecialty. He is the Founder and Editor of the Video Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and has published more than 250 videos and peer-reviewed articles.

Besides his interest in cataract surgery, he has been a proud coach of more than 70 youth baseball and basketball teams reaching the National Championships in each sport. He served as the ophthalmic consultant for the Cincinnati Reds during the 1990's. Dr. Osher has also published 17 children's stories raising money with the proceeds for local and national charitable organizations.

Distinguished guest faculty who have confirmed their participation include:

Daniel J. Briceland, MD,

medical director, Spectra Eye Institute, Sun City West, Ariz. He was elected senior secretary for Advocacy by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) in 2015 and is a 2000 graduate of the Academy's Leadership Development Program (LDPII), serving as the program's director for six years. Dr. Briceland also serves on the Academy's Executive Committee. Dr. Briceland previously served as the Academy's Secretary for State Affairs, and as an Associate for Secretary for State Affairs. Additionally, he previously was a member of the Academy's Nominating Committee, Awards Committee and Committee on Aging.



Dr. Briceland

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Keith D. Carter, MD, FACS, Lillian C. O'Brien and Dr. C.S. O'Brien Chair in Ophthalmology; Chairman and Head, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Iowa Health Care; Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences; Professor of Otolaryngology, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA.



Dr. Carter

John Pollack, MD, Illinois Retina Associates, P.C., Immediate Past-President, American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS), Executive Committee, Foundation of the ASRS.



Dr. Pollack

As with monthly meetings, our top priority is the health and safety of all participants during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to closely monitor regulations and guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will notify you should the Annual meeting change. Full conference details will be available on the POS website at www.pghoph.org. Members also will receive emails leading up to the conference, including registration information.

Terrace Room Site of Annual Banquet



Following the annual meeting, members are invited to attend the annual banquet. The Terrace Room, located at the Omni William Penn Hotel, is the site of this year's banquet. Plan on attending the banquet for an enjoyable evening of camaraderie with your colleagues.

WWW.PGHOPH.ORG



SEEKING INDUSTRY SUPPORT!

Industry support for the 2019-2020 academic year was strong, with vendors expressing positive comments on the engagement opportunities meetings provide and we look to continue the trend for 2020-21.

The society relies on strong exhibit support to offset meetings expenses. Please remember to thank pharmaceutical and ophthalmological supply representatives and remind them of the opportunity to sponsor a monthly meeting. Benefits of sponsoring

a meeting are numerous, including: five minutes of time at the podium to present a product and the opportunity to engage with members during the social.

Help us to identify a new potential sponsor! If you know of a pharmaceutical company, please email Nadine Popovich (npopovich@acms.org) the contact name and email or phone number. You also may direct them to the POS website, www.pghoph.org, as sponsorship information can be downloaded.

41st Meeting for Ophthalmic Personnel

The 41st Annual Meeting for Ophthalmic Personnel, presented by the Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society, will run concurrently with the Annual meeting on Friday, March 12, 2021, at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center.

Planning for this well-respected annual program, which is designed for Ophthalmic technicians, assistants, technologists, and scribes, is currently underway. Previous programs have attracted well over 180 attendees.

Course directors, Pamela Rath, MD, Avni Vyas, MD, and Jared Weed, MD, will review clinical topics for presentation. The conference offers exceptional educational opportunities for ophthalmic personnel in and around the region and continually attracts well-respected local faculty, who present relevant and quality instruction through numerous breakout sessions. Ophthalmology practices, administrators and past attendees will receive a Save the Date card in September, with registration information published on the society website at www.pghoph.org.

PITTSBURGH OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY
41st Annual Meeting
for
OPHTHALMIC PERSONNEL
Sponsored by the
PITTSBURGH OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY



MARCH 12, 2021

PITTSBURGH MARRIOTT CITY CENTER
112 Washington Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Course Directors
Pamela P. Rath, MD • Avni P. Vyas, MD • Jared Weed, MD

COVID-19 RELIEF: STATEWIDE SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

- Application deadline: August 28th
- Visit: <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/covid-19-relief-statewide-small-business-assistance/>

Overview

The COVID-19 public health crisis has impacted every Pennsylvanian in every community. The recently enacted state budget

includes \$2.6 billion in federal stimulus funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES). Within this allocation, the Department of Community and Economic Development has been allocated \$225 million for COVID-19 relief to small businesses through a distribution to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).

The COVID-19 Relief Pennsylvania Statewide Small Business Assistance program will provide grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to small businesses that have been economically impacted by COVID-19. This is not a first-come, first-served program. In order to get funds to businesses in need as quickly as possible, the second application window will be the

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final opportunity to apply for the program.

Uses

DCED will distribute the funding to the Pennsylvania CDFI Network, which will then administer the funding in the form of:

- Grants to cover operating expenses for the duration of the shutdown and the transition period to re-opening
- Grants to cover technical assistance, including training and guidance, for business owners as they stabilize and relaunch their businesses
- Debt payment relief for CDFI Pennsylvania borrowers
- Loan loss reserves for CDFIs

The funds will be distributed in three ways:

- Main Street Business Revitalization Program: \$100 million
- Historically Disadvantaged Business Revitalization Program: \$100 million
- Loan payment deferment and loss reserve: \$25 million

In addition, the program will give additional consideration to the following factors: women-owned businesses, communities targeted for business investment by state government programs like Main Street and Elm Street, and rural communities.

At least 50% of the grants to small

businesses will be awarded to Historically Disadvantaged businesses. Historically Disadvantaged businesses are at least 51% owned and operated by persons who are Black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian American, or Pacific Islander because they have traditionally been discriminated against and disadvantaged when seeking financial services and financial products.

Eligibility

All businesses must apply through an eligible CDFI and meet the program requirements which, at a minimum, include:

- Be physically located, certified to do business, and generate at least 51% of their revenues in Pennsylvania
- Have annual revenue of \$1 million or less prior to the impact of COVID-19
- Have 25 or fewer full-time equivalent employees prior to February 15, 2020
- The business was in operation on February 15, 2020 and if required paid income taxes to the state and federal government, as reported on individual or business tax returns
- COVID-19 has had an adverse economic impact and makes this grant request necessary to support the ongoing operations of the applicant
- The grant will be used cover COVID-19 related costs

- During the period beginning on June 1, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2020, the applicant has not and will not receive another grant under this state program

How to Apply

Eligible businesses must apply through an eligible CDFI.

Businesses are encouraged to start gathering the items that will be necessary to apply. At a minimum, the following list of items will be needed to apply. Additional items may be specified later:

1. Government Issued Photo ID such as a Driver's License or Passport
2. Business financial information:
 - Revenue from March 1st to May 31st for 2019 and 2020
 - Most recently submitted Federal Tax Return. 2018 or 2019 business and personal tax returns including Schedule C
 - If startup between January 1-February 15, 2020, Internal Profit & Loss Statement
3. Proof of Business Registration with PA Department of State, as applicable:
 - Articles of Incorporation (for corporations and LLCs); or
 - Fictitious Name Registration/Doing Business As (Sole Proprietors); or
 - Business License (if applicable)
4. Bank Account Information