At least 54 percent of the nation’s Medicare Advantage managed care plans cover medical eye care provided by optometrists, according to a new survey conducted for the AOA Advocacy Group.

The study found 11 percent of Medicare Advantage plans have no optometrists on their medical provider panels. These plans are being targeted for aggressive AOA Advocacy Group efforts aimed at securing full inclusion of optometry.

Data were not readily available for 35 percent of the plans, though it is being actively sought and is expected to be released shortly.

“The survey presents a significant challenge facing optometry to ensuring that optometrists will play an important role in providing medical eye care under the new Medicare managed care program. The AOA Advocacy Group is making it a top priority to identify and eliminate instances of discrimination against ODs,” said AOA President Richard Wallingford, O.D.

“This survey is a cornerstone of our proactive strategy and our determination to safeguard the rights of ODs and our patients,” he said.

Results of the Medicare Advantage survey are not unlike those of a recent poll of AOA-affiliated state optometric associations, conducted by the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists (MSO). That poll produced no evidence of discrimination against optometrists by Medicare carriers or Medicaid programs in 30 states, but found 20 state optometric associations advocating for full inclusion of optometry.

“Private label’ lens bills surface in state legislatures

Legislation that would create contact lens formulas, maintained by state attorneys general, has been introduced in at least two state legislatures, according to the AOA State Government Relations Center (AOA-SGRC).

The proposed state legislation is backed by the nation’s largest contact lens retailer, 1-800 Contacts, according to the AOA Advocacy Group.

It is similar in intent to an amendment U.S. Senator Robert Bennett (R-UT) unveiled last June and attempted to attach to a Federal spending bill. After a fierce lobbying campaign in Washington, DC, the “1-800 Contacts/Bennett Amendment” was rejected by Congress just before lawmakers adjourned for the year.

Although Indiana and Utah were the only two states in which such legislation has been introduced at AOA News press time, the AOA-SGRC expects to see similar bills introduced elsewhere.

Lobbyists for 1-800 Contacts are reportedly touting the legislation as a means of banning “private label” contact lenses.
I need to see everything on my beat, regardless of what time I walk it. And my eye doctor prescribed PureVision.
Vision should perform as well on the streets as it does on your charts. With enhanced aspheric optics, PureVision® lenses are designed to reduce spherical aberration, for crisp vision all day and into the night. The result is a silicone hydrogel lens that not only gives your patients exceptional comfort and health, but also gives them exceptional visual quality. Life demands vision.

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The quote, “Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made,” is widely attributed to nineteenth century German leader Otto von Bismarck.

His adage never rang with greater clarity than last December during the waning hours of the first session of the 109th Congress, when partisan wrangling delayed passage of legislation that would have prevented the 4.4 percent cut in the Medicare physician fee schedule.

I am pleased to report that the legislation is back on track to clear Congress and that the cuts imposed on Medicare claims filed after Jan. 1 will likely be restored automatically on a retroactive basis. I am hopeful that it will be among the first votes cast when Congress returns to Washington on Jan. 31. With this important problem on its way to being resolved, I thought it might be instructive to talk about how in the legislative process you can do everything right and still not achieve your objectives.

In the legislative battles occurring in Washington and in state capitals around the nation, victory is never assured until the ink has dried at the signing ceremony.

While we ultimately reached a satisfactory result, the torturous route taken to stop the Medicare cut this year demonstrates that we can never be too vigilant in our pursuit of legislative goals.

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In the legislative battles occurring in Washington and in state capitals around the nation, victory is never assured until the ink has dried at the signing ceremony.

Fighting to restore projected cuts in the Medicare physician fee schedule has become an annual fall event in Washington because the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula, which computes the update, has churned out proposed cuts for each of the past five years and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is forecasting additional cuts in each of the next five years.

Anyone remotely familiar with the issue knows that the cuts are unsustainable and would irreparably damage the Medicare program and the access to care patients currently enjoy.

Congress has not stepped in with a long-term solution to the SGR program because cost estimates for fixing the formula have been staggering.

It has been suggested that it could cost as much as $180 billion over 10 years to scrap the SGR, so until Congress gathers the will to address this vexing problem on a permanent basis we will continue to see piecemeal patches that simply push it off for another year.

The AOA has been a leader of a coalition of physician organizations that has worked to stop the projected cuts in Medicare physician payments in recent years.

As we expected, the fee schedule fix for 2006 was included in the “end game” budget reconciliation process. The budget reconciliation bill was intended to extract nearly $40 billion from future federal spending. Most of the cuts were directed toward Medicare and Medicaid, so the legislation was very controversial and spawned contentious debate.

The Senate-passed budget bill called for a 1 percent increase in the Medicare physician fee schedule for 2006, while the House-passed bill did not address the problem.

Differences between the bills had to be reconciled by Senate and House negotiators who were appointed to a conference committee. Conferrees were persuaded to stop the proposed cut and replace it with a one-year freeze.

Although our preferred approach would have been a two-year fix with positive updates, key legislators would not commit beyond the estimated $7.3 billion cost of the one-year freeze.

The House gave final approval to the budget bill in the early morning hours of Dec. 19, following a raucous all-night session. The Senate passed the budget bill Dec. 21 on a recorded vote of 51-50, with Vice President Dick Cheney casting a rare tie-breaking ballot.

However, before the final vote, Senate Democrats successfully raised procedural challenges on three provisions in the bill that were unrelated to physician payments. These provisions were dropped from the legislation, which meant that the House needed to ratify the changes before the bill could be sent to the president to be signed.

Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL) sought to clear the legislation by securing a “unanimous consent” agreement from House Democrats.

This would have enabled the House to give its approval to the Senate changes without requiring a recorded vote. However, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said that the controversial nature of the bill required a roll call vote.

Unable to reach an agreement, Congress adjourned for six weeks without completing action on vital legislation that would have averted the 4.4 percent cut in the Medicare physician fee. The cut took effect Jan. 1, so Medicare claims filed this year have been subjected to a cut.

The bill that Congress is finally due to pass has an effective date of Jan. 1, so all of the cuts are in the process of being restored.

While we ultimately reached a satisfactory result, the torturous route taken to stop the Medicare cut this year demonstrates that we can never be too vigilant in our pursuit of legislative goals.

We will continue calling for a strong grassroots response by AOA members as we begin working to ward off the expected cuts for 2007 and beyond. Optometrists nationwide need us to succeed and our patients demand it.
Alexander files for AOA president-elect

Kevin L. Alexander, O.D., Ph.D., has filed for the AOA office of president-elect. The election will be held June 24 at Optometry’s Meeting™, during the final session of the House of Delegates. Currently the AOA vice president, Dr. Alexander was first elected to the AOA’s Board of Trustees in June 1999 and was re-elected in June 2000 and again in 2003. As a member of the board, he served as chair of the Finance Committee. He also serves as liaison-trustee to the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, the National Optometric Association, and states of Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois and Iowa. As a board member for the past six years, Dr. Alexander has served as liaison-trustee to various AOA committees. In addition, he chaired the AOA Summit on Continued Competence and the first Healthy Eyes/Healthy People™ Conference. Dr. Alexander is a co-chair, along with AOA President-elect C. Thomas Crooks III, O.D., of the Optometry 2020 Summit. He has also been a member of the board’s Journal Policy Review Committee. Dr. Alexander has held many volunteer appointments in AOA. He is the principal author of the AOA Clinical Practice Guideline for Care of the Patient with Anterior Uveitis.

In addition, he has served a three-year term on the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, which accredits its schools and colleges of optometry. Dr. Alexander is a past president of the Ohio Optometric Association. In 1989, the state association named him Ohio’s Optometrist of the Year.

Dr. Alexander is the dean of the Michigan College of Optometry, located in Big Rapids, MI, and practices with his wife, Carol L. Brown, O.D., in their private practice in Sylvania, OH.

Optometry’s Meeting™ to launch with Jazz Fest

The Welcome Reception: Jazz Fest—Vegas Style, benefiting the Optometric Disaster Relief Fund, will kick off the 2006 Optometry’s Meeting™ festivities the evening of Wednesday, June 21.

The Jazz Fest will feature relaxing music, beverages and appetizers, as well as a chance to meet up with colleagues and make a donation to the relief fund.

The relief fund was established by the American Optometric Institute (AOI), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization created by AOA, immediately following Hurricane Katrina to help those impacted by natural disasters.

Although the relief fund was established in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, it was designed as an ongoing program intended to provide some immediate financial relief to optometrists who experience the loss of, or severe damage to, their practice or home because of any type of disaster, now or in the future. To date, the program has provided grants to 98 optometrists in five states. While AOA provided immediate financial support to launch the Optometric Disaster Relief Fund, our industry partners, affiliates and members quickly joined in the effort and contributed generously to help increase fund levels, stated C. Tommy Crooks III, O.D., AOI president.

“We are off to a good start, but must continue to build the fund. You can do your part to help ensure that grants will be available to any and all optometrists who might need them in the future by making your tax-deductible contribution to the Optometric Disaster Relief Fund at the Jazz Fest during Optometry’s Meeting™ in Las Vegas.” For more information, visit www.optometrysmeeting.org.
ODs invited to highlight their services for people with intellectual disability

In response to an unmet need to improve health care for persons with intellectual disability, a Provider Directory is being compiled to list physicians of all disciplines to identify themselves as wanting to treat people with intellectual disabilities in their private practices or institutions.

“We would like to urge all AOA members to enroll in the Special Olympics Provider Directory,” said Paul Berman, O.D. “Special Olympics International has a mission to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.”

Since 2000, Chairman Timothy P. Shriver, Ph.D., has expanded the mission of Special Olympics from providing sports opportunities for socialization and personal growth to also offering health screenings and health care through the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Initiative program.

The Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes (SOLCIOE) vision program is part of the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Initiative. One of the largest programs in the world, providing vision care to persons with intellectual disability, it was founded as a sub-program of the AOA Sports Vision Section.

Opening Eyes now has programs in 46 states and 54 countries. In the fall of 2000, a global partnership was formed between the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), the largest service club in the world, and Special Olympics International. LCIF gave a $3.28 million grant to fund the Special Olympics Opening Eyes program for a three-year period. LCIF has since provided two grant extensions, totaling over $9 million in funding through 2007.

As of June 2005, more than 70,800 athletes have been screened, more than 31,000 pairs of spectacles have been dispensed and approximately 7,800 optometrists and students of optometry have been trained to provide improved vision care to people with intellectual disability. Essilor, Safilo and Liberty have donated the lenses, frames and sports protective eyewear globally for the program.

In addition to organizing vision screening and providing spectacles and protective sport goggles to Special Olympics athletes, SOLCIOE has also produced a Global Curriculum to help educate optometric and ophthalmic practitioners and students worldwide.

The Global Curriculum committee is comprised of an international group of eye care practitioners, pediatric and psychology and educators and has both a four-hour and two-hour version. This curriculum is being made available to all medical and optometry schools, as well as individuals upon request. For a copy, contact Dr. Berman at pberman2020@optonline.net.

The network is expected to be the largest health care providers list for people with disabilities in North America. Health care providers can enroll at www.specialolympics.org/providerdirectory.

“We would also like to encourage AOA members to become involved with their local SOLCIOE program,” Dr. Berman said.

For further information, contact Dr. Berman, global clinical adviser & founder SOLCIOE at pberman2020@optonline.net.

Coalition seeks to prevent sports-related eye injury

The Coalition to Prevent Sports Eye Injuries has been formed to increase the awareness and utilization of protective sports eyewear and to help prevent the needless loss of sight.

This has been prompted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Healthy People 2010 Vision Objective 28.9: “Increase the use of appropriate personal protective eyewear in recreational activities and hazardous situations around the home.”

Almost all eye injuries can be prevented. Many sports and recreation activities, including baseball, basketball, tennis, racquetball, and hockey, have some risk of eye injury. Some injuries may go unnoticed because only one eye is involved.

There are many initiatives to increase the utilization of protective eyewear such as a resolution by the American Optometric Association and pending legislation before the New Jersey Legislature, as well as position papers by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

“The purpose of the coalition would be to bring these forces together to make an impact on policy and awareness. There are many reasons to believe we can now have an effective action plan to educate eye care professionals, consumers, and appropriate national and state government agencies on the need and benefit of sport protective eyewear,” said Paul Berman, O.D.

“We would also like to invite all optometrists to join the Coalition to Prevent Sports Related Eye Injuries,” he said. “As a member, you will receive periodic updates enabling you to be proactive within your own community and increase the awareness for the need of protective sport eyewear. We ask if you are interested in decreasing the number of needless eye injuries and loss of vision to consider joining us in this quest.”

The Coalition to Prevent Sports Related Eye Injuries has been funded by Liberty Sport to increase professional and consumer awareness of the importance of protective sports eyewear.

To join, and for more information, visit www.sportsyeinjuries.com.
AOA at Work

AOA releases new edition of ‘Caring for the Eyes of America’

A

OA has released the latest edition of “Caring for the Eyes of America,” its hallmark compendium of research and data on the optometric profession and the ophthalmic industry.

“Caring for the Eyes of America” contains data from recurring surveys on consumer trends, third-party managed care participation rates, the size and share of the ophthalmic market, optical dispensing, and optometric income.

“Caring for the Eyes of America” examines the changing nature of optometric practice over time and is a valuable resource for the optometric press, the optical industry (frames and lenses), the contact lens industry, optical laboratories, retail optical chains, financial institutions and brokerage houses, third-party providers, libraries, and schools and colleges of optometry.

“Caring for the Eyes of America” includes information on:

- The size of the optical and ophthalmic markets (and how the market share is divided);
- How the optical and ophthalmic markets have changed and continue to change;
- The factors motivating patients to act on eye examinations;
- How often patients get their eyes examined;
- Trends in income for optometrists and their staffs;
- How practice income is generated;
- The growing impact of third-party coverage for eye and vision care (including the impact of managed care);
- The latest data from the Consumer Price Index on eyewear and eye care;
- Current trends in optical dispensers and their impact on practices.

The new edition “Caring for the Eyes of America” includes data from the 2005 AOA Economic Survey, which provides information on the average hours per week doctors engage in practice, the number of patients seen in an average week, and return time for eye exams.

Also provided is data related to glaucoma treatment, refractive surgery and referrals, care of diabetic patients, and legend drug prescribing. Economic data also covers optometric income for both self-employed and employed/affiliated optometrists—broken down by practice setting, years in practice, and gender.

Also included in the 2006 “Caring for the Eyes of America” is information from AOA’s 2004 Public Image Survey of consumers, which examines the reasons patients seek care, how consumers find eye care doctors, the frequency of eye exams, and the numbers of optometrists versus ophthalmologists performing eye exams.

Other consumer information included in the report provides government data from the Consumer Price Index (CPI), showing that consumer price changes for eyeglasses and eye care remain among the lowest in the economy.

Information on the number of patients covered by third-party and managed care sources, patient volume, gross and net incomes, health plan participation, optometric managed care services provided, and participation in Medicare and Medicaid is included as well.

A special section is provided on the size and share of the ophthalmic market, with results based on internal research and analysis by AOA’s experts on labor and the economy.

Of particular interest to industry is the section on ophthalmic lenses and frames. Data provided covers lens materials, types, and treatments, as well as information on who makes the recommendations and “sells” the lenses to patients—the optometrist or a staff member. This section also covers sales by laboratories, display frames, cost and mix of display frames, income from contact lenses, and factors influencing the selection of a frame vendor.

For a limited time, “Caring for the Eyes of America” will be available at a reduced price. Copies ordered by May 15, 2006, are just $229. After May 15, the price will be $279.

For AOA members, “Caring for the Eyes of America” is just $39 if ordered by May 15 and $59 after that date.

Also available for purchase is the boxed set, which includes the 2004 version of “Caring” and the new 2006 version, both on CD-ROM. The boxed set, if ordered by May 15, is $356 ($68 for AOA members). If ordered after May 15, the boxed set is $419 ($89 for AOA members).

To place an order, or for more information on ordering multiple copies, contact Debra Misuraca at (800) 365-2219, ext. 238, or DKMisuraca@aoa.org.

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Optometrists embracing new clinical technology

A OA member optometrists across the nation are continuing to incorporate innovative new clinical technology into their practices, the AOA Information and Data Committee’s 2005 New Technology Survey shows. The survey finds optometrists are also making more use of the Internet.

The AOA New Technology Survey series was initiated three years ago to track the assimilation of rapidly advancing clinical and business technology into day-to-day optometric practice.

Both of the technology surveys conducted to date offer encouraging evidence that the nation’s practicing optometrists are adopting advances in clinical technology in a timely manner, according to Richard C. Edlow, O.D., AOA Information and Data Committee chair.

The 2005 AOA New Technology Survey, taken late last year, finds more than two thirds (68.9 percent) of AOA member optometrists now offer pachymetry.

AOA’s first technology survey in 2003 found well over a third of practices (38.3 percent) already had pachymeters — just a year after the Ocular Hypertensive Treatment Study first indicated pachymetry as a means for testing for glaucoma.

Scanning laser ophthalmoscopy is now available in more than a third of practices (34.2 percent) up from just over one in 20 (6.3 percent) in 2003. OPTOS retinal imaging can now be found in about one in every seven (15.4 percent) optometric practices, the latest survey shows.

Survey results indicate optometrists, who were considering the purchase of new clinical technology two years ago, acted on those plans.

“The survey demonstrates that optometrists, America’s primary eye care providers, are rapidly making the benefits of advances in eye care technology available to patients,” Dr. Edlow said.

“That is important not only from the perspective of ensuring that each patient has the best possible quality of care, but from the perspective of optometry as a profession,” Dr. Edlow assessed. “Providing the latest high technology eye care is one of the best ways to position an optometric practice in an increasingly competitive eye and vision care market.”

Overall, automated perimetry (found in an overwhelming 89.9 percent of practices) remains the most common clinical technology in optometry.

Autorefractors (found in 71.2 percent of practices) remain the second. Pachymetry is now the third most common. Fundus or retinal imaging cameras are now found in almost two-thirds of practices (65.3 percent).

Pachymetry and scanning laser ophthalmoscopy are the fastest growing technologies in optometric practice.

The new survey found relatively few notable developments in the use of technology for practice management.

The survey found more optometrists are placing optical lab orders via the Internet (62.2 percent in 2005, up from 55.5 percent in 2003).

Optometric Educators to convene at Optometry’s Meeting™

The Optometric Educator’s Exchange (OEE) will debut at Optometry’s Meeting™ in Las Vegas this June. The program, offered by the AOA Faculty Relations Committee, will give faculty the opportunity to receive expert guidance and get a fresh perspective on teaching.

“This is a fantastic and unique opportunity. There are many doctors that come in contact with optometry students. From the didactic podium and college/university practice that educates ‘in-house’, to the private practice or hospital that educates our externs, there is benefit in attending this event. It has been uncommon for the educators of our future optometrists to have the opportunity to learn to teach more effectively. This meeting is an opportunity to collaborate and share great ideas. Please take advantage of the educators exchange and join us in Las Vegas,” said Chris Lievens, O.D., chair of OEE subcommittee.

The committee developed the program’s concept after receiving feedback from an AOA survey of faculty. The full-day program will be held Friday, June 23 and will be highlighted by keynote speaker Terrence Doyle, MEd., professor at Ferris State University.

Doyle will discuss assessing students to promote long-term learning and recall. Following the group session, faculty can select two morning break-out sessions from topics such as the following:

- Training clinical preceptors
- Implementing technology in the classroom
- Reviewing current brain research with regard to teaching

The afternoon session will be geared more toward collaboration, where the structure will allow roundtable discussions. Faculty will have the opportunity to share ideas, exchange syllabi and network with other faculty. If OEE is a success, the program will become an annual event, according to Dr. Lievens.

For more information, email clievens@sco.edu.

Activities Utilizing the Internet, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Claims submission</td>
<td>84.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical information</td>
<td>56.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing education credits</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail communication with patients</td>
<td>34.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online access to publications/info.</td>
<td>62.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient education via a Web site</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient newsletter via e-mail</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product information from manufacturers</td>
<td>63.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A third of surveyed practices (34 percent) are using computers for patient communications other than simple recall notices (up from 30.4 percent in 2003).

Just under a quarter of practices (23 percent) are now using computers for prescriptions (up from 19 percent in 2003).

However, percentages of optometrists utilizing computers for most management functions remained virtually unchanged from two years earlier.

Four out of five practices rely on computers to process claims (81.1 percent of practices) and perform other billing related activities (80.9 percent). Three quarters (77 percent) use computers to generate patient recall notices.

The new survey finds 17.7 percent of surveyed optometrists use electronic health records (EHRs) in their practices.

Over the next 10 years, the federal government plans to require all health care providers — including all optometrists — to use electronic health records (EHRs). Many believe that, in turn, will probably lead many practitioners to establish totally electronic practices, the AOA Health Information Technology Study Group believes.

Conducted last fall, the 2005 AOA New Technology Survey indicates optometrists are making more use of the Internet.

Nearly half of the optometrists surveyed now subscribe to online newsletters or participate in online discussion groups or list servers.

Percent ODs Utilizing Technologies in Clinical Practice, 2003-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A/B scan ultrasound</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anterior segment camera</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>39.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automated perimeter</td>
<td>90.8</td>
<td>89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automated refracting lane</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>15.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autorefractor</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>71.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corneal topography unit3</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>41.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundus/retinal camera</td>
<td>57.8</td>
<td>65.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pachymeter</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>68.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanning laser ophthalmoscope</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>34.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTOS retinal imaging</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>15.4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Percent ODs Utilizing Technologies in Clinical Practice, 2003-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Software</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Software</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AlphaMed</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>OD Professional</td>
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<td>Compulink</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>OfficeMate</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye Base P.E.</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>Optimeyes MBA</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>EyeCare Advantage</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Optivision</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EyeCom</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Paradigm</td>
<td>0.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-Z Frame</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>RUSYS Pract. Man.</td>
<td>11.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maxim Eyes</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Practice Maximus</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>MISYS PM</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>Practice View</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Gen</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>VersaSuite</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total does not equal 100 percent

Author sharing amblyopia book for children with InfantSEE™

Author Justina Chen Headley’s daughter wore a patch over her eye for four years to treat her amblyopia. During this time, countless adults stopped her in the street and asked what was wrong with her eye, but Headley knew she had to do something when another child actually “reared up” upon seeing her daughter at a ballet class.

“There are certain truisms in life, like ‘never say never,’” said Headley. “And the one I discovered was ‘there’s nothing fiercer than a writer mom.’”

Headley decided to write a story for her daughter—and for others.

“It’s a story of feeling different,” she said. In Headley’s book “The Patch,” 5-year-old Becca visits the doctor only to find out that her left eye reads “fuzz balls instead of letters.” Becca has lazy eye and must wear spectacles and an eye patch. The patch attracts attention and questions from her classmates.

In response, Becca entertains them with fictional tales of the many reasons why she is wearing the patch before finally confessing she has a “lazy eye.” “The Patch,” illustrated by Mitch Vane, is scheduled for release this month and is available at all retail and online bookstores.

In conjunction with the book, the two limited edition eye patches featuring Becca and her dog, Figaro, will also be released with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the InfantSEE™ program. The patches, designed by Cathy Thompson, cost $10 and can be ordered by visiting www.patchpals.com or calling (319) 393-2620.

Headley first heard about InfantSEE™ from her daughter’s optometrist, Karen Preston, O.D. She visited the Web site, www.infantsee.org, and after learning about the program and President Jimmy Carter’s involvement, decided to immediately give a generous donation.

InfantSEE™, which provides a comprehensive infant eye assessment within the first year of life as a no cost public health service, is intended to help other children in the same situation as Headley’s daughter.

She was first examined by Bob Glaze, O.D., when she accompanied her mother to an eye exam at age 3. “Dr. Bob, as we call him, looked at my daughter and said ‘let’s pop her up here,’” Headley said. “She was still so little that she stood up in the chair. Within minutes he knew, and told me I needed to take her to a specialist. He referred me to Dr. Preston.”

Before her diagnosis with amblyopia, Headley’s daughter had passed all of the eye screenings at her pediatrician’s office.

Now, Headley said, she has a “deep commitment” to InfantSEE™. “Tying philanthropy to my work is important,” Headley said. “We are all so capable of making a difference.”

Headley’s young adult book “Nothing but the Truth (and a few white lies)” is set for release in April and will include a national essay contest for a $5,000 college scholarship.

“The Patch” helps children understand amblyopia.

Since the InfantSEE™ program was “breef” June 6, 2000 on NBC’s Today Show, the response by both the public and the media has been overwhelming. In just a few months’ time, thousands of parents have visited the InfantSEE™ website and scheduled appointments for their infants. Our work has just begun and we need your help.

As you know, InfantSEE™ is a public health program designed to ensure that optometric eye and vision care becomes an integral part of infant wellness care to improve a child’s quality of life. This program was developed in partnership with the American Optometric Association, American Optometric Institute, and the Vision Care Institute of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. It serves the critical importance of the early detection, management, and treatment of ocular conditions and diseases.

Through InfantSEE™, AOA member optometrists provide a comprehensive infant eye assessment within the first year of life as a no-cost public health service. We invite you to join the 7,000 optometrists already enrolled. Your participation moves InfantSEE™ even closer to its goal of having a provider in every community. Now is the time if you haven’t already registered. Click on the image below to enroll at www.infantsee.org today.


InfantSEE™ hotline: (900) 365-2219 x296

Visit www.infantsee.org

For more information, e-mail books@charlesbridge.com or call (800) 225-3214.


In conjunction with the book, two limited edition eye patches featuring the main characters, Becca and her dog, Figaro, will also be released. The author has offered to contribute a portion of the proceeds from patch sales to AOA’s InfantSEE™ program. The patches, designed by Cathy Thompson, cost $10 and can be ordered at www.patchpals.com or by calling (319) 393-2620.
Illustrating the changing characteristics of Optometry is a group of PCO students who were contestants in an Academy of Optometry campus poster contest. With judges, from left, Drs. Bob Newcomb (OSU), Felix Barker and Irv Borish, are students who have since graduated: Joanne Pham, O.D.; Michel Pawlosky, O.D.; Simki Shah, O.D.; Nisha Patel, O.D.; Josephine Ibironke, O.D.; Rebecca Wincek, O.D.; and Shital Shah, O.D.

Optometry was recently represented at the U.S. Office of Minority Health meeting celebrating the 20th Anniversary of its establishment as a federal office. The OMH National Leadership Summit on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health was held in Washington, DC, with a record attendance of more than 2,000.

Presenting on behalf of optometry was Felix Barker, O.D., professor and associate dean for research and academic development at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO). Dr. Barker discussed the specific importance of eye care in health disparities resulting from the high prevalence of cataract, glaucoma and diabetic eye disease in underserved populations.

In his remarks, Dr. Barker highlighted the recent results of the inter-institutional project, Inter-cultural Sensitivity Education for Educators (ISEE).

This study resulted from a research workgroup formed at the Summer Research Institute, which was jointly funded by AOA and the American Academy of Optometry. The ISEE program was conducted last fall at PCO, University of Houston College of Optometry and New England College of Optometry and was designed to produce a positive impact among faculty members regarding the importance of cultural awareness in day-to-day education and patient care.

A workshop was given to 100 faculty members and 31 college staff, including a featured presentation by ISEE member, Levelle Jenkins, O.D., of The Ohio State College of Optometry. She presented her “EYECARE” model (Evaluate, Yield, Explore, Communicate, Acknowledge, Re-evaluate, and Execute) for providing culturally competent education within an optometric curriculum.

In addition, critical data regarding ethnically based health disparities were presented including:

- Blacks have half the medical intervention for glaucoma, based on inter-race prevalence estimates. Blacks are three times more likely to have glaucoma than whites and are eight times more likely to have undiagnosed glaucoma.
- Underserved blacks are twice as likely as whites to suffer blindness due to unoperated cataracts. That accounts for 27 percent of blindness among blacks. Hispanics over 40 have a 20 percent rate of binocular vision loss due to unoperated cataracts.
- The ocular effects of diabetes may be more evident because of higher levels of hyperglycemia in underserved minorities. For example, hemoglobin A1c is above 8 percent in 50 percent of black women and 43 percent of Hispanic men, compared to less than 40 percent in other groups.

Before and several months after, the data were presented, the audience was asked to report their level of agreement with statements such as:

- “I am knowledgeable about the impact of family dynamics on health care decisions”
- “I tolerate bias and prejudice in the workplace”
- “I hold diversity as one of my personal values”
- “I believe that older patients are not open to change”

More than 75 percent of the participants reported that as a result of the in-service training they now have a greater understanding of the importance of culturally sensitive eye care.

To encourage culturally sensitive and culturally appropriate patient care in the teaching clinics 60 percent felt they would be able to apply the EYECARE model for cultural awareness in their optometric teaching setting.

More than half felt they can apply some information to cultural groups in their optometric teaching setting, and two-thirds agreed that they plan to talk with their students and/or demonstrate ways to provide culturally sensitive eye care.

The ISEE working group conducted its workshop events with the support of a grant from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. ASCO recently funded the ISEE group for a follow-up program at the same schools.

The longer term goal of ISEE is to conduct outcomes of care studies that would reflect the measurement of impact on cultural sensitivity training in reducing health disparities.

Dr. Barker said, “The profession of optometry is changing due to the addition of more women and by the greater influx of a culturally diverse student body.”

He added, “This will undoubtedly serve to provide a longer term and more direct impact on traditional health disparities. In the meanwhile, we must address this unsolved issue by our curricula and by faculty development such as the ISEE program.”

According to Dr. Barker, the presentation was part of a symposium of different research groups that have been participating in the nationwide REACH 2010 project (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health).

“IT was a statement of the high potential interest with this audience that, of six presenters, we were asked half the questions in the discussion session,” said Dr. Barker.
Program focuses on aiding new practitioners


Based on the new practitioner series offered at Optometry’s Meeting™ in the past, panels of experts will discuss a range of popular practice management topics that affect optometrists just starting their careers or preparing to change practice settings.

Scott Sedlacek, O.D., chair of Optometry’s Meeting™ New Practitioner Subcommittee 2006 (the committee that developed the program) said, “This four-part series will provide the young OD with information that will be useful for the office every day. There are four separate 90-minute course sessions that consist of interactive lecture, group discussion and individual follow-up. These much-needed and asked-for course sessions will provide real-world information and ideas designed especially for young ODs.”

The New in Practice– Panel of Expert Series for Saturday, June 24 includes four sessions: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Billing & Coding, Course #0300 (Fee: $10)

The intricacies of coding and billing cannot be addressed in one session, however, “new in practice” attendees will walk away with a better understanding of different types of eye examinations, special diagnostic testing, and how to code each one appropriately for billing purposes. Additionally, the panel of experts will address “in office” surgical procedures that modern optometrists perform and how to apply for reimbursement. Speakers: Keith Davis, O.D., and Jason Ellen, O.D.

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Staff Management, Course #0310 (Fee: $10)

Staff management is often cited as one of the greatest challenges of running an office. A well-trained staff is among the most important components of providing outstanding vision care. This course provides informative tips on recruiting, hiring, and retaining quality personnel as well as terminating personnel. Speakers: Mile Brujic, O.D., and Mandy Miller-Haiber, CPOA

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Financial Management, Course #0320 (Fee: $10)

A successful optometric practice relies on sound financial fundamentals. This course will discuss concepts such as cash flow, gross versus net profits, tax considerations for the sole proprietor or S-corporation and retirement planning among other topics. The participant will leave with a good basic understanding of the financial aspects of running a practice. Speakers: Laurie Sorrenson, O.D., and Ken Hicks, CPA

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Contracts & Leases, Course #0330 (Fee: $10)

This course will provide information and tips on associate and partnership agreements and buy/sell agreements. The session will also familiarize the participant with the two most common types of leases: leasing space adjacent to an optical corporation and leasing in a strip center. Suggestions on how to successfully negotiate a lease, pitfalls to avoid, and recommended items to include in a lease are other topics that will be discussed. Speakers: Keith Davis, O.D., and James Lytle, J.D.

AOA member and non-member ODs may pre-register for one or more sessions. Register for the meeting and courses at www.optometristsmeeting.org (beginning this month).

AOA NewsLetter brings AOA News to your inbox

Subscribers to AOA NewsLetter get the AOA News electronically, along with extra articles, Web exclusives and the option of reading the News as an Adobe PDF document. Look for it monthly!

ATTENTION
All Paraoptometric Professionals!

If you are registered to attend the upcoming SECO Conference in Atlanta, GA February 22-26, 2006, you cannot miss the AOA Paraoptometric Section-sponsored breakfast seminar.

Join your colleagues for food and CE while listening to lecturer Rebecca Johnson, CPOT, COT, COE, of the Foundation for Ophthalmic Training, while she presents, “Your Professional Toolbox”

Ms. Johnson will teach you important steps in utilizing the resources provided by your state, regional, and national paraoptometric associations to reach your career goals.

Register for this seminar on site at the Georgia World Congress Center.

This course has been provided compliments of the AOA Paraoptometric Section.
Optometry’s Meeting™ is approaching fast

By Allan Hudson, O.D.
AOA Optometry’s Meeting™ Committee Chair

The 109th Annual AOA Congress & 36th Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry’s Meeting™ will return to Las Vegas, NV, June 21-25, 2006. Optometry’s Meeting™ has grown into the premier industry event, with over 200 exhibiting companies, an amazing selection of continuing education, and unparalleled networking opportunities.

As the chair of Optometry’s Meeting™ Committee, I have watched this event evolve into the best mix of professional and social interaction among optometric colleagues. Our committee listens to you, the members, and constantly makes improvements to all facets of the meeting. 2006 in Las Vegas should prove to be the largest meeting to date.

The AOSA will again meet at Optometry’s Meeting™ this year. This will be the fourth year in which the AOA and AOSA have merged their annual meetings. We are so thrilled to have the future of the profession meet with us. This will continue to strengthen the entire profession.

During the next few months, you will continue to see updates regarding Optometry’s Meeting™ in the AOA News. Kirk Smick, O.D., continuing education chair, will provide an overview of the tremendous CE scheduled. Dick Schuck, O.D., exhibits chair, will illustrate the vast product display that will fill the Mandalay Bay Exhibit Hall. Ryan Parker, O.D., student program chair, will then give a snapshot of the AOSA overall program of events.

I would like to encourage every AOA member to take advantage of one of the largest member benefits available to them, Optometry’s Meeting™. This incredible event is the best value meeting in our industry. With an extremely low base registration fee and continuing education prices remaining the same as last year (between complimentary and $25 per hour for early bird registrants), you will not want to miss Optometry’s Meeting™.

Please visit www.optometristsmeeting.org for further information and to register.

The meeting venues are again amazing! The Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino will house the vast majority of the sessions and the Exhibit Hall. This magnificent hotel/convention center complex, located on the Las Vegas Strip, will please all attendees. Additional sleeping rooms and a few meetings will be held at the Luxor Las Vegas and the Excalibur. All three hotels are connected by complimentary tram and by foot bridges full of wonderful shopping and restaurants.

The Optometry’s Meeting™ Committee asks for your support by making your reservations at one of the three official AOA hotels. By you utilizing our selected hotels, AOA is able to avoid costly attrition fees. This helps us keep your overall meeting costs extremely low. Log onto www.optometristsmeeting.org to make your housing reservations starting in early February.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to the biggest and best meeting to date. See you in Las Vegas for Bright Lights and Late Nights!

Registration open for Optometry’s Meeting™

Now that registration for the 2006 Optometry’s Meeting™ has opened, attendees can start preparing for Bright Lights and Late Nights in Las Vegas at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, June 21-25.

Attendees can register online at www.optometristsmeeting.org courtesy of Transitions.

Transitions will also sponsor a monthly online newsletter filled with the latest information and updates on Optometry’s Meeting™.

“Transitions’ mission extends beyond merely providing an excellent healthy sight product solution,” said Carole Bratteig, Transitions Optical Services and Training manager. “It also entails a commitment to education leadership and supporting the eye care professionals delivering vision care. Events like Optometry’s Meeting™ are important educational forums for the exchange of ideas, and we are honored to be supporting it,” she said.

Historically, Las Vegas has been the AOA’s most popular destination and 2006 Optometry’s Meeting™ should set a new attendance record.

The 109th Annual AOA Congress & 36th Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry’s Meeting™ features a renowned exhibit hall with more than 200 exhibitors and more than 200 hours of unparalleled continuing education.

The Wednesday Night Welcome Reception kicks off with the Jazz Fest—Vegas Style, benefiting the Optometric Disaster Relief Fund.

“Dilbert” creator Scott Adams will address attendees at the Opening General Session on Thursday, courtesy of Essilor.

Registrants can also visit the Exhibit Hall for the International Wine and Cheese Reception on Thursday, courtesy of Hoya.

On Friday, the Exhibit Hall will offer Buck-a-Beer Night.

Optometry’s Meeting™ will wrap up Saturday night at the Presidential Celebration with a performance by The Beach Boys, sponsored by Signet Armorlite.
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Registration is $100 for AOA Members & $30 for AOSA Members.

The 109th Annual AOA Congress & 36th Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry’s Meeting™ Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino • Las Vegas, Nevada

Join your peers...come to learn, come to play - either way, check out our line-up.

- 200+ exhibitors.
- 200+ hours of unparalleled CE.
- Wednesday Night Welcome Reception: Jazz Fest
- Opening General Session with speaker Scott Adams, creator of “Dilbert”. Sponsored by Essilor.
- International Wine and Cheese Reception on Thursday. Sponsored by Hoya.
- Buck-a-Beer Night on Friday.
- The Varilux Optometry Super Bowl XV. Sponsored by Essilor.
- Presidential Celebration featuring The Beach Boys. Sponsored by Signet Armorlite.

Conference
June 21-25, 2006

Exhibits
June 22-24, 2006

To register, take advantage of early bird savings, and learn more about Optometry’s Meeting™, use any of these convenient resources:

visit
www.optometrysmeting.org

call
(800) 386-6825

e-mail
MeetingHotline@aoo.org

Unparalleled CE • 200+ Exhibitors
House of Delegates • Professional Interaction
Advocacy, from page 1

tions reporting Medicare carriers or Medicaid programs that effectively restrict the providing of medical eye care by optometrists.

Some proponents believe Medicare Advantage, which already covers around 13 percent of the Medicare population, could eventually become a major part of the Medicare program. Some optometrists have expressed concerns the new Medicare Advantage plans, like some other managed care programs, would exclude optometrists from their medical eye care programs.

Under its very successful and ongoing Managed Care Marketing Initiative and through other follow-up actions, the AOA Advocacy Group’s Eye Care Benefits Center (AOA-ECBC) plans to begin collecting Medicare Advantage plans that the survey found to have no optometrists on its medical provider list.

Under that program, AOA-ECBC and state optometric associations, with the assistance of the international benefits advisory firm, Aon Consulting, meet with insurance plan network managers to encourage coverage of medical eye care provided by optometrists. The new survey was conducted by Aon Consulting.

Medicare Advantage is a revamped and expanded version of the Medicare managed care program formerly known as Medicare+Choice. Beginning Jan. 1, Medicare Advantage began offering coverage through a new breed of regional preferred provider organizations (PPOs). The new Medicare PPOs offer beneficiaries expanded benefit packages and reduced premiums, compared with traditional Medicare.

The new Medicare Advantage program also includes Medicare’s previously established system of HMOs. The revised managed care program was authorized by Congress under the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003. The survey collected data on a total of 104 Medicare Advantage HMOs, PPOs, and PPO demonstration plans. It found 56 of those plans list optometrists in their online provider medical directories. Only 11 plans listed ophthalmologists but no optometrists among the medical providers.

Although data were not readily available on 37 plans, AOA is aggressively pursuing follow-up research and expects to release information on these plans.

The study included Medicare Advantage’s 50 largest HMOs. Of those, 28 include optometrists on their medical provider panels. Seven include no optometrists on medical panels, with data unavailable on 15. It also covered the 31 largest of Medicare Advantage’s new PPO plans, with 16 found to already include optometrists on their medical provider panels. Four of the new PPOs list no optometrists on their medical panels. Data were unavailable on 11.

The study also looked at 23 limited-enrollment PPO demonstration projects. All of the 12 demonstration projects for which data was available listed optometrists on their medical provider panels.

The new Medicare PPO coverage is organized around 26 regional service areas, each comprised of one or more states.

In order to become Medicare’s PPO provider for any given region, a health plan must demonstrate that it can provide access to care in every part of that region.

Under Medicare+Choice, HMOs offered care on a county-by-county basis. As a result, coverage was unavailable in many areas, particularly rural localities.

Despite Medicare Advantage’s new emphasis on PPOs, nearly all of the program’s largest plans are still HMOs, the survey notes.

The Indiana bill would have made it a criminal offense for an optometrist to prescribe any lens not on the formulary.

Under the Utah bill, an optometrist could be subject to license suspension or revocation.

“The normal rule in American business is that every manufacturer has the freedom to choose its own channels of distribution, consistent with the existing antitrust laws,” according to the bulletin.

“The 1-800 Contacts proposed legislation is a radical departure from normal American business practices. Such drastic remedies should only be instituted where a genuine crisis exists. No such crisis exists here, as amply demonstrated by the FTC competition study of the contact lens marketplace,” according to AOA-SGRC.

“There is really no compelling difference between the ophthalmic industry and any other industry to warrant such a radical alteration of normal American business practice in the ophthalmic industry. This would be a dangerous precedent to set in any industry,” the AOA-SGRC bulletin concludes.

“The 1-800 Contacts legislation being proposed by 1-800 Contacts at the state level may be preempted by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDA Act) provisions governing medical devices, the AOA-SGRC adds.

Nevertheless, the AOA State Government Relations Center is urging state optometric associations to be prepared to fight any private label lens bill introduced in their states.

“The legislation would have made it a criminal offense for an optometrist to prescribe any lens not on the formulary. It did not advance out of committee prior to a legislative deadline, according to Jim Zieba, J.D., Indiana Optometric Association.

Under the Utah bill, an optometrist could be subject to license suspension or revocation.

Although the AOA supports unrestricted competition for the sale of all contact lenses, the idea of prescription formularies for lenses is contrary to any current health care regulatory system for other professions and is an unduly drastic, burdensome, and clumsy way to address an issue that the FTC has found to be an insignificant factor in the contact lens marketplace,” the AOA-GRC said in a Jan. 25 bulletin to state optometric associations.

“The legislation being proposed by 1-800 Contacts is premised on there being a major problem with contact lens competition that no credible research and evidence actually finds to exist,” the center adds.

“The AOA-SGRC believes 1-800 Contacts may be promoting the legislation in an attempt to draw attention from the company’s troubles.

The company recently received a warning letter from the FTC concerning potential violations of the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act.

The type of device-specific certification legislation being proposed by 1-800 Contacts at the state level may be preempted by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act provisions governing medical devices, the AOA-GRC adds.

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Commemorating the donation of 2,500 pairs of glasses to the National Safety Council are Phoebe Solomon (National Safety Council/Community Safety Division Chair of the “Give the Gift of Sight” program, and safety representative to AOA), Wayne Mitchell (retired safety consultant to Walt Disney World) and Marguerite Ball-Thomas, O.D. (representing VOSH and the Orlando Downtown Lions Club). The three collected 2,500 pairs of glasses during the National Safety Council’s annual congress for donation to Third World countries this year.

Courses kick off Wednesday’s program

Optometry’s Meeting™ early birds will find a full afternoon of education waiting for them when they arrive in Las Vegas on Wednesday, June 21.

Advanced Medical Optics is sponsoring a free continuing education course titled “Cataract Surgery Update: Procedures, Materials and Designs,” Course #1004, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This course will cover new intraocular lens (IOL) designs. It will also review the different materials that IOLs are currently manufactured from as well as newer techniques in cataract surgery.


New this year for paraoptometrics is the Section Series in which representatives from other AOA sections present a course on new products or developments in their specialty. The following courses will be offered:

- “New Developments in Contact Lens Care,” which will be presented by council leaders from the Contact Lens and Cornea Section.
- (Lecturers: P. Klein, O.D., C. Sindt, O.D., and A. Epstein, O.D.)
- “Risk Factors in Infants and Young Children,” which will be presented by an InfantSEE™ committee member. (Lecturer: G. Steele, O.D.)
- “Progress in Progressives” and “Getting the Most from Managed Care” (Lecturer: B. Wood)
- “CPOT Review Course” (Lecturer: K. Wood, CPOT)
- “CPO Review Course” (Lecturer: C. Bryant, CPOT)
- “CPOA Review Course” (Lecturer: T. Souza, CPOT)
- “CPOT Practical Review Workshop” (Lecturers: B. Taylor, CPOT, L. Lawrence, CPOT, and M. Jameson, CPOT).

Vistakon, a division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, is providing a grant for the paraoptometric education.

The Paraoptometric Section will hold candidate interviews for five positions for the 2006-2007 council on Wednesday, June 21 as well.

The available positions include chair-elect, vice chair, secretary and two trustees.

Interviews for candidates in good standing who submit a letter of intent are conducted by a panel of at-large members pre-selected by the council chair.

Candidates must attend Optometry’s Meeting™ in order to be considered.

For more information about the positions available or to request a copy of the intent submission guidelines, contact the section at (800) 365-2219, ext. 222.

Registration for Optometry’s Meeting™ opens this month. For more information, visit www.optometrysmeeting.org.
Industry Profile: Alcon

With the introduction of Opti-Free® Replenish® Multi-Purpose Disinfecting Solution (MPDS) and Systane® Free Lubricant Eye Drops, the minimal blur liquid gel, Alcon offers new innovative products in 2006.

Opti-Free Replenish MPDS labeled with the claim ‘compatible with silicone hydrogel and soft contact lenses.’ Silicone hydrogel lenses are the fastest growing lens material in the U.S.

“During wear, contact lens surfaces can become hydrophobic (water-repelling),” said Dave Sattler, Director of Professional Relations for Alcon. “With Opti-Free Replenish, we have created a solution that retains moisture on to the lens surface at 14 hours.”

Recent studies show that Opti-Free Replenish MPDS with Teargyle™, a powerful wetting system, keeps the most commonly prescribed silicone hydrogel and traditional hydrogel lens surfaces fresh and moist throughout the day.

The new formulation is labeled ‘Reconditions the lens to retain surface moisture, for enhanced comfort.’

Systane Free dry eye therapy is the new liquid gel that patients are free to use throughout the day and night for maximum dry eye relief, according to Alcon. Systane Free offers the long lasting comfort of a gel while providing minimal blurring and tear film stability compared to Refresh Liquigel! Being preservative free in the eye, Systane Free is proven safe and gentle on the eye. 2,3

“Systane Free has been formulated to make it self-preserving,” Sattler said. “It meets all preservative efficacy standards and is found to be safe on the corneal epithelium.” 2,3 It’s the first time a product has been formulated using an ionic buffer system to effectively preserve the liquid solution and prevent microbial growth within the bottle. Systane Free is packaged in a multi-dose bottle, as patients prefer, instead of individual unit doses. It’s more convenient and less expensive. 2,3

Both Opti-Free Replenish MPDS and Systane Free lubricant eye drops are now available.

For more information on Alcon, visit www.alconinc.com.

1. Data on file, Alcon, Inc.

Essilor uses wavefront technology in new PALS

“Varilux Physio and Varilux Physio 360° control the integrity of the wavefront as it passes through the lens and onto the eye,” said Hanlin. “As such, these lenses do not require the use of an aberrometer—since no correction of the eye’s inherent wavefront defects is being attempted. In the past, all progressive power lenses have introduced higher-order aberrations into the optical system.

Varilux Physio is the first PAL to present an undisturbed wavefront to the eye,” he noted.

Varilux Physio is designed for most patients, including new presbyopes and current Varilux lens wearers. It uses a front side design and digital surfaces on the molds and offers improvements in all fields of vision.

Varilux Physio 360° is designed for patients wanting the most advanced progressive vision, those with more complex prescriptions, and those who have not adapted to other progressive addition lenses. W.A.V.E. technology is applied to both the front and back of the lens with 360° Digital Surfacing™, which minimizes distortions and preserves the effectiveness of the front design.

For more information on these progressive addition lenses, visit www.varilux.com.
Volk Optical

redesigned its Super Macula® 2.2 lens in a lighter and smaller form, allowing for more convenient handling.

The patented double-aspheric glass construction gives bright, undistorted images across the entire lens surface.

The lens' high resolution and wide field of view allow for critical evaluation of the optic nerve head and macula.

Volk's Super Macula 2.2 provides detailed views of the macula and disc for high resolution laser treatment capabilities.

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The patented double-aspheric glass construction gives bright, undistorted images across the entire lens surface.

The lens' high resolution and wide field of view allow for critical evaluation of the optic nerve head and macula.

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February


OPE CLINICAL CURRICULUM VT/Strabismus & Amblyopia Feb. 16-19, Phoenix, AZ 800/ 447-0370 www.aobusa.org

OREGON OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION OOPA Third Party/ Practice Management Seminar Feb. 17-18, 2006 Valley River Inn, Eugene OR 503/ 654-5036 or 800/ 922-2045 FAX 503/ 659-4189 oopa@assomgi.com www.oregonoptometry.org

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST CONGRESS OF OPTOMETRY Feb. 18-19, 2006 Forest Grove, OR 503/ 326-2707 spacegoggle@aol.net or Oep@oep.org www.oep.org

DELAWARE OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION Winter Thaw CE Event Feb. 18, 2006 Embassy Suites, Newark, DE 302/537-0234 traberod@aol.com


5TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BEHAVIORAL OPTOMETRY ophthalmology2006.com.br Feb. 20-24, 2006 Sao Paulo, Brazil


MONTANA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION BIG SKY SKI CONFERENCE March 2-5, 2006 Huntsley Lodge Big Sky Ski Resort, Big Sky, MT 406/ 443-1160 406/ 443-4614 sueuw@mteyes.com www.mtyes.com

18TH ANNUAL OCULAR SYMPOSIUM 2006 Sacramento Valley Optometric Society March 5, 2006 Marriott Rancho Cordova Hotel, Rancho Cordova, CA (916) 447-0270 jerryse@svos.org

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY 4 STATE AREA STUDENT SYMPOSIUM March 4, 2006 NSUCO Campus, Tahlequah 918/ 456-5311 x4033 918/ 458-2104 mccormil@nsuco.edu arapahon@nsuco.edu /optometry

DADE COUNTY OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION MIAMI NICE March 4, 2006 Omni Colonnade Hotel Coral Gables, FL 800/ 808-5018 FAX 772/ 334-9223 susie683@aol.com www.miameyes.org

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY OCULAR DISEASE PART 1 March 4, 2006 Southern California College of Optometry 714/ 449-7442 saltkinson@scco.edu www.scco.edu

19TH ANNUAL EYE SKI CONFERENCE March 4-11, 2006 Lodge at Mountain Village Park City Utah 419/ 475-0819 tandakmel@ buckeye-express.com www.eyeskiutah.com

GREAT LAKES CONGRESS March 5, 2006 Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel Northbrook IL jeffgazette@bigcityglobal.net

SEEN-SKI 2006 March 5-8, 2006 Caesars Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 702/ 220-7444 noahV03@yahoo.com www.nevadaoptometric.org

MARCH 2006

20TH ANNUAL EYE SKI OPTOMETRIC CONFERENCE March 5-10, 2006 Park City, UT www.eyeskiutah.com

Sacramento Valley Optometric Society 18th Annual Ocular Symposium 2006 March 5, Marriott Rancho Cordova Hotel 916/447-0270 jerryse@svos.org

OCULAR THERAPEUTICS March 12-22, 2005 Wyndham Aruba Beach Resort and Casino 713/882-6708 713/882-6708 kathie@acne.com http://www.acne.com

OPTOWEST 2006 March 9-12, 2006 Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, CA 800/877-5738; 916/441-3990 FAX 916/448-1423 jessica@aciewision.org www.optowest.com

MAINE OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION SUGARLOAF SKI MEETING March 10-11, 2006 Sugarloaf USA Carrabassett Valley ME 207/ 626-9920 207/ 626-9935 MOA.Office@ MaineEyeDoctors.com www.MaineEyeDoctors.com

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY Educational Conference and Exposition March 10-12, 2006 Hotel Intertional - Dallas, Niki Bedell 713/ 743-1856 713/ 743-6541 skioc@optometry.uh.edu www.swoa.org

OEP CLINICAL CURRICULUM TBI/ABI March 18-20, 2006 Baltimore, MD Theresa Kreji 800/447 0370 www.aobusa.org

NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS 2006 ACE SYMPOSIUM, March 24 - 26, 2006, World Trade & Convention Centre (WTCC) Halifax, NS (902) 499-0909 wendy@innovativeplanning.ca
Meetings

New Jersey Academy of Optometry
2006 Golf Conference
March 22-25, 2006
Hilton Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation,
Myrtle Beach, SC
Dennis H. Lyons, O.D.
732/920-0110
Dhl2020@aol.com

15th Annual Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation
Association (NORA) Conference
March 22-26, 2006
Tucson, AZ
866-22-3887
rwill23@hotmail.com

International Vision Expo East
March 30-April 2, 2006
New York, NY
Hotel & travel 800/388-8106
or 312/527-7300
www.visionexpoeast.com

Pennsylvania Optometric Association, Inc.
Curriculum for Professional Development II
March 26, 2006
Wyndham Hotel, Harrisburg,
Ilene K. Sauertieg
717/233-6455
Ilene@poaeyes.org

April

International Congress of Ophthalmology
April 2006
Sydney Australia
www.ophthalmology2006.com.br

Nebraska Optometric Association
NOA Spring Convention
April 1-2, 2006
Omaha Embassy Suites
Omaha, NE
402/474-7716

Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Forum 2006,
April 6
Children's Learning Forum 2007, April 7
Holiday Inn on the Lane,
Columbus, OH, Contact: Dr. Marjean Taylor Kulp, The OSU
College of Optometry, 614-688-3336
Fax: 614-247-6907
kulp.6@osu.edu, http://optometry.osu.edu

AOA Spring Planning Conference
April 19-23, 2006
St. Louis, MO
www.aoa.org

May

AOA Congressional Conference I
May 1-3, 2006
Washington, DC
www.aoa.org

Arizona Optometric Association
Annual Congress
May 4-7, 2006
Hilton El Conquistador Resort
Tucson, AZ
602/279-0055
Fax: 602/264-6356
info@aoa.org

New York 2006
500 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC
April 24-27, 2006
202/463-2435
www.nysoa.org

Midwest Vision Congress Expo 2006
May 11-14, 2006
Donald Stephens Convention Center
Rosemont, IL
www.midwestvisioncongress.com

Baylor College of Medicine
New York Academy of Sciences
May 17-20, 2006
Holiday Inn Grand Montana
Billings, MT
Sue A. Weingartner
406-443-1160
suew@mteyes.com

Robert Anderson Symposium
May 25-27, 2006
429 Utah Avenue, B120
Tulsa, OK
Fax: 918-585-5534
The Betty Ford Center
Powell, WY
307-772-4263
www.powell.org

June

Optometry Association of Louisiana Annual Convention
June 9-11, 2006
The Lafayette Hilton & Towers,
Dr. James D. Sandeloff or
Amanda Perry
888/388-0675
318/335-0675
opla@south.net

Pennsylvania Optometric Association, Inc.
POA Spring Educational Conference
June 10-11, 2006
Hershey Lodge and
Convention Center
Ilene K. Sauertieg
717/233-6455
Ilene@poaeyes.org

The 109th Annual AOA Congress & 36th Annual AOCA Conference:
Optometry’s Meeting™
June 21-25, 2006
Las Vegas, Nevada Mandalay
Bay Resort & Casino.
www.optometrysmeeting.org

July

Florida Optometric Association
2006 FOA Annual Convention
July 13-16, 2006
Marco Island Marriott, Marco Island, Florida
Kellie Webb
800/399-2334
kellie@floridaeyes.org

Northern Rockies Optometric Conference
July 20-22, 2006
Snow King Conference Center, Jackson, WY
www.NROCMeeting.com
307/637-7575
Contact: Dan Lex

Alabama Optometric Association
Gulf Coast Summer Conference
July 28-29, 2006
Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf
Resort & Spa
334/834-1057
334/834-1691
lori@alaopt.com
www.alaopt.org

The 109th Annual AOA Congress & 36th Annual AOCA Conference:
Optometry’s Meeting™
June 21-25, 2006
Las Vegas, Nevada Mandalay
Bay Resort & Casino.
www.optometrysmeeting.org

Ocular Therapeutics Continuing Education

FEBRUARY 6, 2006 • 23
The Illinois College of Optometry invites applications for full-time and part-time faculty positions in the:

**Cornea/Contact Lens Service**

**Primary Care Service**

The positions may include significant didactic responsibilities depending upon the experience of the applicants. Applicants must be graduates of an accredited school or college of optometry and be eligible for state licensure in Illinois and qualify for privileges at the Illinois Eye Institute, the College’s clinical facility. Candidates should demonstrate an active record of participation and excellence in teaching and research. Residency training is most desirable. Rank and salary will be commensurate with experience.

A letter of intent, current curriculum vitae, and the name and address of three professional references should be submitted to:

Laura Rounce  
Vice President for Human and Physical Resources  
Illinois College of Optometry  
3241 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60616  
e-mail: lrounce@ico.edu

The Illinois College of Optometry is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
**THE NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**
Clinical Faculty Position: Developmental Vision, Vision Therapy, and/or Traumatic Brain Injury

The New England College of Optometry invites applications for a full-time tenure-track faculty position in the Department of Specialty and Advanced Care. Applicants should have an O.D. degree and advanced training with an expertise within the broad area(s) of developmental vision, vision therapy, and/or traumatic brain injury. A Ph.D. or M.S. in a related field is preferred.

Responsibilities will depend upon the unique qualifications and interests of the applicant, and will include clinical care, laboratory teaching, lecturing, and research. He/she will serve as a member of the professional staff of The New England Eye Institute and may provide care in a variety of settings including community health centers, schools, hospitals and other health facilities in the greater Boston area. The applicant must be eligible for licensure in Massachusetts. The applicant will also be expected to establish an extramurally funded research program. Faculty rank and salary will be commensurate with experience.

The College is a small but dynamic institution with a strong commitment to optometric teaching, patient care, and the development of a collaborative research environment. Applicants should submit a complete curriculum vitae, a statement of teaching and research interests, and the names of three professional references to:

Dr. Bruce Moore, Chair of the Faculty Search Committee
c/o The Office of Academic Affairs
The New England College of Optometry
424 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02115

Deadline for submission of application: March 1, 2006.

The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**THE NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**
Full-Time Tenure-Track Clinical Faculty Position: Cornea and Contact Lenses

The New England College of Optometry invites applications for a full-time tenure-track faculty position in the area of Cornea and Contact Lenses within the Department of Specialty and Advanced Care. Applicants should have an O.D. degree and advanced training or experience in the areas of contact lenses and corneal science. An advanced degree such as a Ph.D. or M.S. in a related field is preferred.

Responsibilities will depend upon the unique qualifications and interests of the applicant, but will include lecturing and laboratory teaching in the Contact Lens course, research, and clinical care as a member of the professional staff of The New England Eye Institute’s Cornea and Contact Lens Service. The applicant must be eligible for licensure in Massachusetts. The applicant will be expected to establish an extramurally funded research program. Faculty rank and salary will be commensurate with experience.

The College is a small but dynamic institution with a strong commitment to optometric teaching, patient care, and the development of a collaborative research environment. Applicants should submit a complete curriculum vitae, a statement of teaching and research interests, and the names of three professional references to:

Dr. Bruce Moore, Chair of the Faculty Search Committee
c/o The Office of Academic Affairs
The New England College of Optometry
424 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02115

Deadline for submission of application: February 21, 2006.

The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**2006 Residency Program**
Refractive Surgery/Ocular Disease

The Omaha Eye & Laser Institute is seeking applications for a one-year residency position in refractive surgery and ocular disease to commence July 1, 2006. Candidates already licensed in Nebraska may be eligible for an earlier start date. The resident will receive extensive clinical training at our Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska offices. The emphasis of the residency will be the peri-operative care of refractive and cataract surgery patients. However, the resident will also receive significant clinical experience in retina and glaucoma. Salary is $41,000 plus benefits.

Send Curriculum Vitae to:
Soo J. Liu, M.D.
11606 Nicholas St
Omaha, NE 68154
Phone: 402-493-2020 • FAX: 402-493-8987

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**Associate Dean for Clinical Sciences**

The mission of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry is to graduate Doctors of Optometry and offer other educational, research, and patient care programs responsive to the health care needs of the public. To assist us in our goals, we are seeking candidates for the position of Associate Dean for Clinical Sciences.

The Associate Dean for Clinical Sciences is a challenging leadership position of the College’s entire clinical educational enterprise. The Associate Dean is responsible for all aspects of the clinical education of interns in pre-clinic and at The Eye Institute (TEI), the college’s clinical facility. TEI is a multi-disciplinary vision and eye health care facility serving a very large and diagnostically diverse patient base with more than 60,000 outpatient visits annually.

The Associate Dean is also responsible for the Externship Programs and provides administrative oversight to the College’s extensive Residency Programs. The Associate Dean is responsible to the Dean of Academic Affairs. The successful candidate must have the OD degree and be licensed or license eligible in Pennsylvania. Candidates will be considered based on their demonstrated leadership and ability in clinical education, primary eye care, academic administration, scholarship and service. This is a tenure track position offering a comprehensive benefits package and competitive salary. Please send CV to:

Pennsylvania College of Optometry
Human Resources Department
8360 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027
Email: hrd@pco.edu
Southern College of Optometry has an opening for a Vice President of Institutional Advancement. The VP of Institutional Advancement reports to the President of the College and is a key member of the college leadership. The VP supports the mission and vision of the College through successful management of the College’s development and communications programs. Critical management areas include annual giving campaign, planned giving, special events, alumni relations, and marketing and communications for the college and the Eye Center. The successful candidate will possess the ability to articulate the mission and vision of the college with enthusiasm and energy. Additionally, the ideal candidate will possess excellent communications skills, strong organizational skills, and the ability to establish strong relationships with staff, faculty, donors, alumni and other constituencies.

The position requires a bachelor’s degree and eight years of progressive experience at the senior level. A Masters Degree and/or OD degree is preferred. Experience in higher education is a plus. The position requires some travel and the ability to attend evening and weekend events. The College offers excellent benefits including sixteen paid holidays in addition to personal vacation time, medical, vision, life, disability, and outstanding employer contribution to retirement. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Send resume to HRD@SCO.EDU or Fax to 901-722-3329.

Southern College of Optometry
1245 Madison Avenue.
Memphis, Tennessee 38104-2222

SCO is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and encourages women and members of racial or ethnic minorities to enter into candidacy for this position.

New England Eye Institute Invites Applications for Professional Staff Appointments

The New England Eye Institute (NEEI), the clinical services corporation of the New England College of Optometry (NECO), invites applications for professional staff members to serve as attending optometrists and educators within NEEI’s primary care service, homeless/charity care service and community health center programs. These staff members will also receive teaching appointments with NECO.

A professional staff member of NEEI is a highly qualified doctor of optometry and clinician-educator who works within a dynamic team-oriented, not-for-profit eye care network serving the visual health needs of populations in greater Boston.

Required qualifications include an OD degree, advanced professional credentials such as residency training or equivalent clinical experience, eligibility to be licensed in Massachusetts and an active commitment to excellence in patient care and teaching.

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Start dates for these appointments will vary, ranging from June 1 – September 1, 2006. Applicants should submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae by April 1, 2006 to:

Dr. Roger Wilson
Vice President for Professional Services and Strategy Assessment
1255 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215
617.236.6229
wilsonr@neco.edu
www.ne-eyeinstitute.org

The College is an Equal Opportunity employer.

DON’T PANIC

It’s Not Too Late

With tax season “crunch time” coming, we remind you that the IRS now allows an automatic six month extension to file business and individual returns.

Our team at May & Company is committed to providing our OD clients with sound accounting and business planning services at all times. If you are rushed, do not have all of your tax information, or would just prefer to take advantage of all available tax planning opportunities, we encourage you to consider extending your tax returns.

Contact us for your FREE report. Call us today at 601.636.0096 or email kenhicks@maycpa.com for a FREE report on the benefits of extending your return. And for a limited time get a 2005 Optometrist Checklist for Organizing Tax Records.

Is your practice ready? Call us today.

May & Company CPAs

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We want you to enjoy the natural beauty of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. So after an excellent day of continuing education, please “hit the road” to the most beautiful place on earth.

Speakers:
Dr. Bruce Onofrey
Dr. James Colgain
Dr. Valerie Kattouf
Dr. Walter Choate

For more information about our 18 hour doctor program, exhibits, and paraoptometric program, in beautiful Jackson Hole, Wyoming scheduled for July 20-22, 2006, please contact us at:

Northern Rockies Optometric Conference
716 Randall Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001
Ph: 307/637-7575
Fax: 307/638-8472
www.NROCmeeting.com

The College is an Equal Opportunity employer.
Primary Care Faculty Position
Department of Optometry, School of Optometry
University of Alabama at Birmingham

The University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry, Department of Optometry, invites applicants for a faculty position available Summer 2006. This position is nontenure-earning at the rank of assistant professor or associate professor.

Applicants for this position in the Department of Optometry must possess the Doctor of Optometry degree and have completed an ACOE accredited residency program preferably in primary eye care or ocular disease. Evidence of an ability to develop in the area of patient care and research is important. The successful candidate will have teaching responsibility in both the clinic as well as classroom and teaching laboratories. In addition, this position entails modest activity in clinical research or other scholarly activities.

A curriculum vitae, statement of clinical teaching and research interest, and names and addresses of three professional references should be sent to:

Jimmy D. Bartlett, O.D., Sc.D., Chair,
Department of Optometry, School of Optometry
1716 University Blvd.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL 35294-0010

Deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 2006 or until the position is filled.

Tenure Track Faculty Position
Department of Optometry, School of Optometry
University of Alabama at Birmingham

The University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry, Department of Optometry invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor. Candidates must hold the O.D., M.D., or Ph.D. degree, have relevant postdoctoral research experience and a strong desire to engage in creative and contemporary clinical research. Candidates will be expected to establish or maintain a rigorous program of independently funded clinical research. A competitive salary, attractive start-up package, and ample research space will be provided. We are particularly interested in individuals with expertise in adaptive optics, contact lenses, tear film physiology, glaucoma, retinal disease, or other areas of clinical research. The successful candidate for this position will have ample opportunity to collaborate with any of the 20 Ph.D. vision scientists in the Department of Vision Sciences and 25 faculty members in the Department of Optometry.

Candidates for this position must submit a letter of interest, current curriculum vitae, and a list of three professional references to:

Jimmy D. Bartlett, O.D., Sc.D., Chair,
Department of Optometry, School of Optometry,
1716 University Blvd., University of Alabama at Birmingham,
Birmingham, AL 35294-0010

Deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 2006 or until the position is filled.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer.

Ad Showcase

Staff Optometrist Position
Refractive Surgery/Ocular Disease

The Omaha Eye & Laser Institute announces an excellent opportunity for a full-time staff optometrist position in our new Lincoln, Nebraska office. Applicants must be residency trained or have at least two years experience in an intensive refractive surgery and/or ocular disease setting. The Omaha Eye & Laser Institute is a progressive medical/surgical eye care facility that actively co-manages patients with a large optometric network. Salary will be commensurate with training and experience with a strong benefit package.

Send Curriculum Vitae to:

Sao J. Liu, M.D.
11606 Nicholas St
Omaha, NE 68164
Phone: 402-493-2020 • FAX: 402-493-8987

Teed-Up-O.D.
Hilton Head, South Carolina
May 3 - May 7, 2006

Golf: Tournament Rounds: Harbour Town
Skins Game: Hilton Head National

CE: 15 Hours World Class - Cope Approved
Information/Registration: Call Sylvia: 800-249-3214
8:30-5:30 PST
The University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry, Department of Optometry invites applicants for a faculty position at the rank of assistant professor or associate professor available summer 2006. Rank, salary, and tenure-track status will be commensurate with training and qualifications.

The applicant for this position in the Department of Optometry must hold the Doctor of Optometry degree and have completed a ACOE-accredited residency program, or have had substantial ocular disease clinical experience. In addition to expertise in treatment and management of ocular disease, it is expected that this clinician will be able to provide low vision care in an interdisciplinary setting.

A current curriculum vitae, statement of clinical teaching and research interests, and names and addresses of three professional references should be sent to:

Jimmy D. Bartlett, O.D., Sc.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Optometry, School of Optometry
1716 University Blvd.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL 35294-0010

Deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 2006 or until the position is filled.
Classifieds

Professional Opportunities


Established NEW YORK Practice for Sale 1.3M gross with room for expansion in WESTCHESTER County, TAMPA, FLORIDA with 490k gross; MISSISSIPPI DELTA with 490k gross; MISSISSIPPI OD needed for 2-2.5 year contract. Buyers immediate, available for practices in Orlando, Chicago, DC, Savannah. Call Sandra Kennedy at National Practice Brokers (800) 201-3588.

OPTHAMALOGISTS, OPTOMETRISTS & MANAGERS

LCA-Vision/LaskiPlus has excellent opportunities nationally for highly motivated and committed professionals seeking to enhance their career and use their talents to provide the highest quality patient care in a warm, high-energy environment. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. To become part of our exciting team, dedicated to shaping the laser vision correction industry, please reply to: Recruiting Department LCA-Vision Inc. Email: kwessel@lca.com Office: 1-866-359-1010 FAX: 513-792-6526

Optometry Faculty (12-Month, Tenure-track) Michigan College of Optometry Ferris State University Responsibilities: The successful applicant will assume duties in patient care and teaching in the clinical classroom and laboratory, advising students, and teaching courses. The faculty responsibilities will include scholarly activity, service, and counseling of students. Faculty members also have professional responsibilities which may include advising students, orientation, keeping regular posted office hours, participation in University and professional committees, and participation in traditional functions which have academic significance. Faculty members may be required to teach off-campus or on-line courses. Required Qualifications: Applicants must have either a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree, be eligible for appointment to the clinical staff of the college, and demonstrate a high level of advanced degree, education or experience in vision science; OR, have earned a Doctor of Optometry (Ph.D.) in vision science. Preferred Qualifications: Applicants with advanced degrees in both clinical eye care and vision science (i.e., O.D., OD, D.O., M.S., M.D., Ph.D.) are encouraged. They should also have the ability to work within a team teaching environment. Willingness to develop in the areas of patient care, teaching, scholarly/professional activities, and leadership. Prior teaching experience and an interest in teaching. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Please send curriculum vitae, letter of interest, other supporting documentation, and the names of three references with addresses and telephone numbers (include Fax number and e-mail address also, if available) to: Mark Swain, O.D., Chair, Faculty Recruitment Committee, Michigan College of Optometry, 1310 Cramer Circle, PES 402, Big Rapids, MI 49307. For additional position information or more information about Ferris State University, please visit our web site at http://www.ferris.edu/mco/positions. An Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action employer.

Optometry Faculty (12-Month, Tenure-track) Michigan College of Optometry Ferris State University Responsibilities: The successful applicant will assume duties in patient care and teaching in the clinical classroom and laboratory, advising students, and teaching courses. The faculty responsibilities will include scholarly activity, service, and counseling of students. Faculty members also have professional responsibilities which may include advising students, orientation, keeping regular posted office hours, participation in University and professional committees, and participation in traditional functions which have academic significance. Faculty members may be required to teach off-campus or on-line courses. Required Qualifications: Applicants must have either a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree, be eligible for appointment to the clinical staff of the college, and demonstrate a high level of advanced degree, education or experience in vision science; OR, have earned a Doctor of Optometry (Ph.D.) in vision science. Preferred Qualifications: Applicants with advanced degrees in both clinical eye care and vision science (i.e., O.D., OD, D.O., M.S., M.D., Ph.D.) are encouraged. They should also have the ability to work within a team teaching environment. Willingness to develop in the areas of patient care, teaching, scholarly/professional activities, and leadership. Prior teaching experience and an interest in teaching. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Please send curriculum vitae, letter of interest, other supporting documentation, and the names of three references with addresses and telephone numbers (include Fax number and e-mail address also, if available) to: Mark Swain, O.D., Chair, Faculty Recruitment Committee, Michigan College of Optometry, 1310 Cramer Circle, PES 402, Big Rapids, MI 49307. For additional position information or more information about Ferris State University, please visit our web site at http://www.ferris.edu/mco/positions. An Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action employer.

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