

# Keeping POSted

Fall 2022

## President's Corner



It is hard to believe summer is almost over, and the first monthly POS meeting is only two weeks away. Last year at this time, the biggest concern of the POS was whether in-person meetings were going to occur, or would we have to switch to virtual meetings on short notice. Luckily, we made it through all the monthly meetings and a well-attended Spring meeting without interruption. I think I am not alone in saying it was enjoyable being able to talk face-to-face with friends and colleagues not seen for two years. The Rivers Casino and Omni William Penn Hotel, despite staffing shortages, did a great job providing meeting space and refreshments for the gatherings.

While COVID numbers have declined, its aftermath is still making hosting meetings a challenge. While we have a number of excellent speakers confirmed for the monthly and Annual meeting, there are still several empty slots to fill. As anyone who traveled this summer knows, getting a flight that gets to its location on time or even on the



**Marshall W. Stafford, MD**  
President  
**Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society**  
**2021-2023**

correct day is a challenge. Potential speakers are aware they can no longer count on booking a noon flight to Pittsburgh for an evening meeting, nor can they expect to return early the next morning. Hopefully, time will correct this, but I'm not holding my breath (or checking my luggage).

All our monthly meetings will again be at the Rivers Casino except for the November meeting. This will be held at the Babb building on the North Side. We are still in negotiations with the Rivers for meeting space next year. Unfortunately, the Rivers casino figured out ophthalmologists in general

are not compulsive gamblers, and they could make a lot more off other groups. Please lose some money gambling at each monthly meeting to try to help us out next year!

More than ever, physicians must work together to protect our patients from draconian insurance policies and payment cuts.

Ophthalmologists working together this past year eliminated Aetna's preauthorization requirement for cataracts (except in Florida). There are still huge Medicare cuts looming that were not addressed in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

**Patient access to care is not possible if we cannot keep our offices open and staffed.**

Finally, I cannot thank Nadine Popovich and the Allegheny County Medical Society enough for supporting the POS in our endeavors. We remain among the most active if not the most active city Ophthalmology group in the country. It is all your hard work volunteering on the Board, Committees, giving lectures at the Allied Meeting, or inviting speakers that makes this happen. See you September 8th!

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

**T**hank you to all who renewed their dues for 2022. Our membership remained constant with 172 members in 2022 compared to 173 members in 2021. A breakdown of membership includes: 102 active members; 30 residents and fellows; and 40 retired honorary members.

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.

### **We Welcome Non-Members!**

Ophthalmologists, currently not members of the POS, 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](mailto:npopovich@acms.org)).

**-Eric A. Pennock, MD**

**Welcome to the following new members  
(from October 1, 2021)**

**Jerome Finkelstein, MD, FACS**

**Can Kocasarac, MD**

**Jared Weed, MD**

**Andrew Williams, MD**

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES - BEGINNING OCT 15

**M**embership dues statements will be sent electronically October 15. Yearly dues are \$400 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](http://www.pghoph.org) and log in to their account. A membership renewal notification will appear with instruction on how to remit payment online. The Society accepts Visa, Mastercard, AMEX and Discover. Checks also are accepted and can be made payable to Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society.

The benefits of membership are strong. Our meetings provide an excellent opportunity for you to foster relationships with your peers and to participate in quality lectures, presented by nationally recognized ophthalmologists, while receiving continuing education credits. Meetings also offer the opportunity to engage in a smaller group and relaxed setting with the invited speakers and fellow POS members. Social time is always built into our meetings to ensure camaraderie.

We are fortunate as an organization to serve a vibrant and active greater ophthalmology community in Pittsburgh and are pleased to continue the long-standing tradition of monthly dinner meetings, culminating in our full-day Annual Spring meeting and banquet in March.

*Thanks to your continued support and submitting dues in a timely manner.*



## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Society account balances remain stable, and we continue the trend of a modest profit from the Annual Spring meeting. Strong vendor support and a decrease in speaker travel fees aided in the profit. For the 2021-2022 monthly meeting series (September 2021 through March 2022) the overall monthly meeting expenses increased due to the new meeting location. The increase was anticipated as prior meeting expenses were extremely nominal and offered POS a significant cost savings.

I'd like to thank 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). POS 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 2022-2023 monthly meeting series.

Membership dues also are instrumental in sustaining our accounts. POS membership is an excellent value, not only for the CME credit, but for the updates on local and national issues, 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 a strong focus on identifying sponsorship for support of the annual and monthly meetings, we look to continue to remain solvent for 2022-2023 and the future.

- Laurie A. Roba, MD

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## In memorium

### **Ronald Berkman, MD**

Ronald Berkman, MD, long time honorary member of the POS, passed away July 6, 2022 at the age of 87. Dr. Berkman, a talented and caring ophthalmologist in his community for over 50 years, was known for his unusual humor and outlook on life and a natural storyteller and comedian.

### **Patricia Kennerdell**

Patricia Kennerdell, wife of the late Dr. John (Jack) Kennerdell, former Chairman of the Ophthalmology Department at Allegheny General Hospital, passed away July 31st at the age of 75. She played an instrumental role in the Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society Annual Meetings, assisting Dianne Meister, former administrator, with planning of the program.

# POS board, committee appointments announced

**Pamela P. Rath, MD** – Currently, President-Elect. Dr. Rath will assume the position as President on March 10, 2023. She has been an active member of the POS since 2006, serving as a Board member and a Course Director of the Ophthalmic Personnel program since 2016.

Dr. Rath is a Pittsburgh Native who received her medical degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo where she was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha honor medical society. She completed her residency at the University of Minnesota where she received multiple awards including for research, teaching and patient care and compassion. Dr. Rath completed a fellowship in medical retina, inherited retinal diseases, electrophysiology as well as ocular oncology at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, England.

Board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology, Dr. Rath is a retina specialist at Everett and Hurite Ophthalmic Association. She has 19 years of experience specializing in the treatment of medical retinal diseases. She is also trained in the diagnosis and treatment of intraocular tumors and hereditary diseases of the retina.



**Pamela P. Rath, MD**



**Cari E. Lyle, MD**

**Cari E. Lyle, MD** – The POS is pleased to announce Dr. Lyle has accepted the invitation to serve as a Course Director for the Allied Personnel Meeting. Dr. Lyle will join Pamela Rath, MD; Avni Vyas, MD; and Zachary Nadler, MD, PhD to plan the 2023 Allied Personnel Meeting.

Dr. Lyle joined the Pittsburgh Oculoplastics Association, LTD in 2008. She has authored textbook chapters and journal publications on reconstructive surgery and orbital tumors and has been selected to present her research at national oculoplastics meetings. She also serves as Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at UPMC where she lectures and mentors residents and fellows. She has an interest in reconstructing facial defects after skin cancers as well as treating tearing disorders and vision problems related to eyelid disorders.



**Zachary Nadler, MD, PhD**

**Zachary Nadler, MD, PhD** - third-year resident and Co-Chief resident at the UPMC Eye Center, has been selected to serve as resident appointee to the Board of Directors. Dr. Nadler will join course directors Pamela Rath, MD; Avni Vyas, MD; and Cari Lyle, MD, to plan the 2023 Allied Personnel Meeting.

# Welcome 2022-2023 residents and fellow faculty

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.

Serving as Co-Chief Residents are Zachary Nadler, MD, PhD and Tadhg Schempf, MD. Both will coordinate resident presenters for monthly POS meetings.



**Zachary Nadler,  
MD, PhD**



**Tadhg Schempf,  
MD**

## 2022-2023 Ophthalmology Residents and Fellows

### First Year Class (2022 - 2025)



Patricia Campos, MD



Raven Diacou, MD



Doowon Huh, MD



Saloni Kapoor, MD



Christina Kong, MD



Gideon Nkrumah, MD

### Second Year Class (2021 - 2024)



Sonny Caplash, MD



Timothy Chen, MD



Jonathan Peterson, MD



Matthew Sommers, MD



Bushra Usmani, MD



Jacob Winters, MD

### Third Year Class (2020 - 2023)



Peter Jones, MD



Ralitsa Loewen, MD



David Mora-Boellstorff, MD



Zachary Nadler, MD



Manuel Paez-Escamilla, MD



Tadhg Schempf, MD

### Fellow Class



Ahmed Abdou, MD  
Glaucoma



Betul Bayraktutar, MD  
Pediatric



Tyler Berger, MD  
Glaucoma



Kyle Fallgatter, MD  
Retina



Denise Gallagher, MD  
Retina



Farida Hakim, MD  
Cornea



Isha Ingle, MD  
Neuro



Karima Khimani, MD  
Cornea



Mohamed Khodeiry, MD  
Pediatric



Laura Tiedemann, MD  
Oculoplastics

## PAO 2021-2022 LEADERSHIP

Pennsylvania Academy  
of Ophthalmology



Thank you to the following POS members who play an active role in the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) by serving in a leadership position. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of colleagues who give of their time to better the professional interests of ophthalmology.

*President*

**Sharon L. Taylor, MD, FACS**

*Chair, Bylaws and Rules  
Committee*

**Michael J. Azar, MD**

*Chair, Nominating Committee*  
**Robert L. Bergren, MD**

*Secretary, Public Health*

**Kenneth P. Cheng, MD**

*Secretary, Public and  
Prof Information*

**Donald Morris, DO**

*Secretary, Legislation &  
Representation*  
**Kenneth P. Cheng, MD**

*Co-Secretary, Medical Practice  
and Payment System*

**Joel D. Brown, MD**

*AAO Councilor*

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

*Member at Large*  
**Roger Zelt, MD, FACS**

## Legislative effort – recap

This year the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) has been busy in Harrisburg working to advocate for our patients and profession. The PAO is excited to share some updates regarding the important work that we have accomplished in Harrisburg.

- Earlier this year the PAO engaged with the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Pennsylvania Optometric Association (POA) to advocate for Senate Bill 1201. Senate Bill 1201 seeks to allow individuals with prescription eye drops to refill at 70% of the original prescription's length.
- This legislation passed the Senate unanimously on July 7th, 2022 and is now before the House Insurance committee awaiting consideration.
- If you would like to help advocate for Senate Bill 1201, please click on the box below to contact your State Representative and let them know that Pennsylvania needs this important piece of legislation.

**Contact Your Pennsylvania State Representative  
to Support Senate Bill 1201**

- The PAO continues to advocate against House Bill 1343. This legislation would undo the hard work that was accomplished through Act 122 of 2020. House Bill 1343 would mandate multiple comprehensive eye examinations that can only be performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Currently, a vision screening is required for students prior to them beginning school for the first time and then yearly until the 5th grade. From 5th grade onward students receiving vision screenings every other year.

**If you would like more information or would like to help advocate for your patients and profession, please contact Tyler Burke via [Tyler@millirongoodman.com](mailto:Tyler@millirongoodman.com)**



# Thorpe Circle

of the Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society

**T**he Thorpe Circle is pleased to welcome Charles Hrach, MD who became a member since our last annual report.

As of June 31, 2022, the fund's balance is \$47,149.00 Membership stands at 78 members which is made up of Founding and Continuing the Legacy members. All monies remain invested in the Vanguard Life Strategy Moderate Growth Fund.

Established in conjunction with our 50th annual meeting in 2014, the Thorpe Circle was created to support the Thorpe Lectureship. The lectureship was not endowed historically despite being the highlight of our annual meeting since 1980. Your donation enables the POS to continue this tradition of excellence by inviting distinguished guest faculty to serve

as Thorpe Lecturers.

Memberships are lifetime, however additional donations may be made in the form of a sustaining contribution. Please see the inset box for the link to membership levels. The membership fee is reduced for young and retired ophthalmologists.

If you are not a member of the Thorpe Circle, please consider

joining. As a member of the Thorpe Circle, your donation ensures your legacy as one devoted to the recognition of academic and clinical excellence in ophthalmology.

Thank you to all for your generous support of our educational mission.

**-Michael Azar, MD,  
Administrator**

**To join or to donate as a sustaining member, visit [www.pghoph.org](http://www.pghoph.org) and click on the Thorpe Circle Tab to download the donation form. Donations are deductible on your personal tax return.**

**Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society**  
**[www.pghoph.org](http://www.pghoph.org)**





# Thorpe Circle

of the Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society

## Founding Members

Est. March 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

\* denotes Sustaining Member



# Thorpe Circle

of the Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society

## *Continuing the Legacy*

Roxana Barad, MD  
Lance M. Bodily, MD  
Jennifer Salvitti Davis, MD  
Andrew W. Eller, MD  
Charles J. Hrach, MD  
Seth A. Holst, MD  
Jared E. Knickelbein, MD, PhD  
Joseph N. Martel, MD  
Lisa M. Nath, MD  
Heo-Jeng (Eugene) Ooi, MD  
Eric A. Pennock, MD  
Laurie Roba, MD  
Pinchas Rosenberg, MD  
Deepam Rusia, MD, MBA  
José Alain Sahel, MD  
Shripaad Y. Shukla, MD  
John S. Swogger, DO  
Avni Vyas, MD  
Irving G. Weinberger, 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\*  
  
In Recognition of  
John G. Krah, ACMS Executive Director  
(1989-2018)  
~ Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society

# Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society hosts 57th Annual Meeting

The Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society, under the leadership of President Marshall Stafford, MD, hosted their 57th Annual Meeting on March 10 at the Omni William Penn Hotel. After two years of virtual offerings the in-person event attracted over 90 physicians who welcomed distinguished ophthalmologist Uday Devgan, MD, FACS, Private Practice, Devgan Eye Surgery, Los Angeles; Partner, Specialty Surgical Center, Beverly Hills; and the original Cataract Coach, who served as the 41st Annual Harvey E. Thorpe Lecturer.

The named lecture honors Harvey E. Thorpe, MD, an ophthalmologist whose techniques and inventions of medical instruments contributed to the study of the eye.

Dr. Devgan is world renowned in the field of ocular surgery and has taught surgery in 40 countries and writes teaching columns in eye surgery journals which are distributed worldwide. He has written more than 200 books, chapters, medical papers, and journal articles about techniques of cataract, lens, and LASIK surgery. These writings as well as his instructional surgical videos have helped thousands of ophthalmologists and their patients.

Attendees were enlightened and educated with presentations from the following prominent and distinguished guest faculty: **Emily Chew, MD**, Director, Division of Epidemiology and Clinical

Applications (DECA), at the National Eye Institute, the National Institutes of Health; Chief, Clinical Trials Branch, Bethesda, MD; **Chris Albanis, MD**, Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Refractive Surgery; Chief Medical Officer, Ocular Partners, Inc. President, Arbor Centers for EyeCare, Clinical Associate, The University of Chicago; Chairperson, Advocate Christ Medical Center, Department of Ophthalmology Chicago, IL; and **Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr, MD**, founder, and CEO of Oklahoma Eye Surgeons, PLLC.

In addition, attendees welcomed local faculty **José- Alain Sahel, MD**, Distinguished Professor and Chairman, The Eye and Ear Endowed Chair, Department of Ophthalmology; Director, UPMC Eye Center, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA. The Agenda included an informative legislative Update by POS Board Member, **Kenneth Cheng, MD**.



**Uday Devgan, MD, FACS, Thorpe Lecturer and Marshall Stafford, MD, President, after the presentation of the Thorpe Scroll.**



**POS members attending the 57th Annual Meeting**





**Guest Faculty at the 57th Annual meeting include (l to r) Chris Albanis, MD; José-Alain Sahel, MD; Marshall Stafford, MD; Uday Devgan, MD, FACS; Steven Sarkisian Jr., MD, and Kenneth Cheng, MD.**

## 42nd Annual Meeting for Ophthalmic Personnel attracts large crowd

**R**unning concurrently with the POS 57th Annual Meeting was the 42nd Annual Meeting for Ophthalmic Personnel. This year, 148 attendees comprised of ophthalmic technicians, assistants, coders, photographers, and front staff attended this full-day program. The well-respected program is designed specifically for ophthalmic personnel to enhance the quality, expertise and safety of ophthalmic patient care.

The program featured a hybrid of plenary and breakout sessions, all of which were approved for 1.0 IJCAHPO credit. Participants selected their own Agenda in the afternoon, choosing from several front- and back-office courses. The popular, Ophthalmic JEOPARDY! session returned. The session educated audience members by providing ophthalmic ‘pearls for their practice’ in a fun and interactive learning environment.

Course directors **Pamela Rath, MD, Avni Vyas, MD, and Zachary Koretz, MD**, worked tirelessly to plan this high-level educational offering. The Society depends and relies on local expertise and talent to present each session. This year was no exception, with local physicians and health care professionals providing quality presentations. ***The course directors would like to thank all POS members who participated as a speaker for the program.***



**Course Director Avni Vyas, MD, welcoming attendees at the 42nd annual meeting for Ophthalmic Personnel.**

The POS relies on exhibit support to defray the costs of the annual meeting and keep registration fees to a minimum. For 2022, we had excellent participation from numerous exhibitors and sponsors. Comments received from the exhibitor engagement experience was exceptional and exhibitors look forward to participating at the 58th Annual meeting. Thank you to all who attended the Annual meeting and who took time to engage with vendors in the exhibit area.



Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society

57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 11, 2022

Omni William Penn Hotel • Pittsburgh, PA

*Thank You* TO OUR SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS!

## Sponsors

Morning Break

**AERIE PHARMACEUTICALS**

Guest Faculty Dinner

**ALCON**

## EXHIBITORS

Alcon  
Allergan, an AbbVie Company  
Allergan Specialty Eye Care  
Bausch + Lomb  
BioTissue  
Carl Zeiss Meditec, USA, Inc.  
Dompè  
EssilorLuxottica  
Genentech  
Horizon Therapeutics  
ImprimisRx  
Iridex  
Johnson & Johnson Surgical Vision  
New World Medical

Nova Eye Medical  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals  
Ocular Therapeutix  
OMIC  
Optos, Inc.  
Regeneron Healthcare Solutions  
SIGHT Sciences  
Spark Therapeutics  
Sun Ophthalmics  
Topcon Healthcare  
Vertilocity  
Walman Instruments



# 2022-2023 Monthly Meetings begin September 8th

**M**arshall Stafford, MD, President, is pleased to announce the 2022-2023 POS Monthly Meeting Series and Annual Meeting dates. A total of six meetings are scheduled, beginning September, and concluding with the Annual meeting in March 2023.

The POS will host the monthly meetings as “in person” meetings in the Ohio Room at the Rivers Casino (777 Casino Dr, Pgh, PA 15212). The venue is centrally located on the North Side and offers free parking. Valet parking is also available for a small fee. The ballroom, located on the 2nd level, is a non-smoking facility and provides ample social distancing space.

**The November 3 program will be the only meeting held at the Babb Insurance Building (850 Ridge Ave, Pgh, PA 15212).** More details will be provided on the November meeting notice and registration site.

Registration begins at 4:00 pm with the first lecture to commence at 4:30 pm. The agenda includes a Resident Case presentation. This year’s second-year resident presenters from the University of Pittsburgh Eye Center include: Sonny Caplash, MD; Timothy Chen, MD; Jonathan Peterson, MD; Matthew Sommers, MD; and Bushra Usmani, MD.

Members will receive registration information, including the link to register, 1 month prior from the date of each meeting. **Registration is required** (no walk-ins, please) and will be handled online only.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society  
2022 – 2023

Monthly and Annual Meeting Dates

(All meetings are scheduled on Thursday)

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

JANUARY 12, 2023

NOVEMBER 3, 2022\*

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

DECEMBER 1, 2022

MARCH 10, 2023

58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & 43<sup>rd</sup> Ophthalmic Personnel Mtg  
Omni William Penn Hotel, Pgh, PA

\*Meeting held at the Babb Insurance Bldg.

**We are honored to welcome the following faculty:**

**September 8** – We welcome **Sandra Fernando Sieminski, MD**, Clinical Associate Professor; Director, Glaucoma Services; Clinical Vice Chair, Department of Ophthalmology; Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY.

Dr. Sieminski is a board certified ophthalmologist and fellowship trained in glaucoma. She is Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Director of Glaucoma Services, and the Clinical Vice Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University at Buffalo. Dr. Sieminski serves as the Clerkship Director for the Ophthalmology rotation for the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and is the Chief of Service of Ophthalmology at the Erie County Medical Center. Her research interests include exfoliative glaucoma, traumatic glaucoma, and laser therapy in glaucoma. *Thank you to Ian Conner, MD, PhD for inviting Dr. Sieminski.*



***Thank you to the following for support  
of the September program.***



**October** – No Meeting. The American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting is scheduled for September 30 through October 3, 2022.

**November 3** – Speaker TBD. **The November 3 program will be the only meeting held at the Babb Insurance Building (850 Ridge Ave, Pgh, PA 15212).** More details will be provided on the November meeting notice and registration site.

**December 1** - December welcomes **Sunil Srivastava, MD**, Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute; Fellowship Director, Vitreo-Retinal Fellowships, Cleveland, OH.

Dr. Sunil Srivastava is a uveitis and vitreo-retinal specialist at the Cole Eye Institute at the Cleveland Clinic. He is the current fellowship director of the vitreo-retinal fellowships. He is both a Senior Achievement Award recipient from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and a Senior Honor Award from American Society of Retinal Specialists. He has received multiple Cleveland Clinic Innovations Awards for his work in novel imaging analysis. He has co-authored over 140 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has delivered over 200 lectures at national and international conferences. His current interest includes the use of novel imaging in uveitis and retinal diseases, the development of imaging outcome measures in uveitis and intraoperative imaging in vitreo-retinal surgery. *Thank you to Jared Knickelbein, MD, PhD for inviting Dr. Srivastava.*



***Thank you to the following  
for support of the  
December program***



**January 12, 2023** – To begin 2023, we welcome **Peter MacIntosh, MD**, Associate Professor; Director Ophthalmology Residency Program; Director Neuro-Ophthalmology Service & Fellowship; Director Global Ophthalmology Fellowship; Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary and UIC Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

Dr. MacIntosh practices in the Department of Ophthalmology at UI Health. He is dual fellowship-trained in neuro-ophthalmology and oculoplastic and reconstructive surgery. His interests include evaluation of optic nerve abnormalities; idiopathic intracranial hypertension; optic neuritis; ischemic, inflammatory, and compressive optic neuropathies; diplopia; facial paralysis; blepharospasm. He is also the director of the Ophthalmology Residency Training Program, and has a special interest in education and curriculum development. *Thank you to Can Kocasarac, MD for inviting Dr. MacIntosh.*



**Thank you to the following  
for support of the  
January program**



**February 9, 2023** – Returning to Pittsburgh in February is **Joshua C. Teichman, MD, MPH, FRCSC**; Co-Director, Cornea, External Disease and Refractive Surgery Fellowship; Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences, University of Toronto; Trillium Health Partners; Prism Eye Institute; TLC Oakville; Kensington Eye Institute.

Dr. Teichman has won numerous awards including a Resident Excellence Award from the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, research awards from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and the Canadian Ophthalmological Society, and ranked in the 99th percentile of North American residents. He holds a faculty position in the Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences, University of Toronto, and is on staff at Credit Valley Hospital, Trillium Health Partners.



Dr. Teichman has a keen interest in research, currently focusing on medical and surgical treatments of corneal disease, and is a member of the elite few performing some of the most intricate corneal surgeries in Canada. He has authored many publications and has given numerous presentation at national and international conferences. *Thank you to Deepinder Dhaliwal, MD for inviting Dr. Teichman.*

**Contact administrator, Nadine Popovich, to inquire about your membership status or an upcoming program. She can be reached by email: [npopovich@acms.org](mailto:npopovich@acms.org) or by phone: 412.321.5030 x 110.**

## Meeting Agenda

- 4:00 pm Registration and Visit with Exhibitor
- 4:30 pm 1st Lecture
- 5:35 pm Resident Case Presentation
- 6:00 pm POS Business Meeting / POS Social – Visit with Exhibitors
- 7:00 pm 2nd Lecture (Dinner to be served during lecture)
- 8:15 pm Conclusion of Program



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



## 58th Annual Meeting & 43rd Annual Ophthalmic Personnel Meeting Friday, March 10, 2023

Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA

## LEON W. HERNDON, JR, MD 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

## HARVEY E. THORPE LECTURER

The 58th Annual Meeting will take place on Friday, March 10, 2023, at the Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA. At this time, the program is scheduled as an in-person event.

The Society is pleased to welcome Leon W. Herndon, Jr., MD, as the 42nd Annual Harvey E. Thorpe Lecturer.

Dr. Herndon, Jr., is Professor of Ophthalmology at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. He earned his MD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, and served his internship and residency at the University of North Carolina Hospital in Chapel Hill. Dr. Herndon then completed a clinical fellowship in glaucoma at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina.

He is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and was a member of the first class of the Leadership Development Program. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed papers, lectured nationally and internationally, and has participated in several research projects related to glaucoma. He currently serves as Chief of the Glaucoma Division at the Duke University Eye Center where he has trained 84 clinical fellows. Dr. Herndon has been recognized for his service in the community by receiving the Senior Achievement Award from the AAO and the Dedicated Humanitarian Service Award presented by Dr. Leonel Fernandez Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the 2nd Ophthalmology Mission in the Dominican Republic.

He is the recipient of the Distinguished Medical Alumnus Award from the UNC School of Medicine, and was the Surgery Day Lecturer at the American Glaucoma Society Annual Meeting in 2019. He was named to the 2021 Newsweek America's Best Eye Doctors list (#27). He is founder of the North Carolina Glaucoma Club, and the chair of the Glaucoma Clinical Committee of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons as well as Vice President of the American Glaucoma Society. Dr. Herndon's research interests include studying novel treatment approaches in the diagnosis and management of severe glaucoma.



**Leon W. Herndon, Jr, MD**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvey E.**  
**Thorpe Lecturer**



Distinguished guest faculty who have accepted the invitation at the time of print, include:

**Thomas A. Oetting, MS, MD**, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences; Deputy Director, VA Medical Center Surgical Service; Rodolfo N. Perez Jr, MD, and Margaret Perez Professor in Ophthalmology Education; Ophthalmology Residency Program Director, University of Iowa Health Care, Iowa City, IA.

## 2023 ANNUAL BANQUET

Planning is underway to explore options to refresh the traditional banquet experience. During the annual planning meeting, officers and board of directors reviewed comments and suggestions from members who attended previous banquets. Once a venue, date and time are finalized, members will receive a “save the date” with details. *We look forward to welcoming you to the 2023 Annual Banquet!*



## 43<sup>RD</sup> MEETING FOR OPHTHALMIC PERSONNEL

The 43rd Annual Meeting for Ophthalmic Personnel will run concurrently with the Annual meeting on Friday, March 10, 2023 at the Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting is scheduled as an in-person event.

This well-respected annual program is designed for Ophthalmic technicians, assistants, technologists, scribes and administrative personnel.

Course directors, Pamela Rath, MD; Avni Vyas, MD; Cari Lyle, MD; and Zachary Nadler, MD, PhD, will begin planning in early October. 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.

**POS members interested in presenting are asked to contact Nadine Popovich ([npopovich@acms.org](mailto:npopovich@acms.org)).** Last year, the program attracted over 140 attendees and course directors look forward to offering an excellent program for 2023. Complete information, including topics and speaker details, will be available on the Society website at [www.pghoph.org](http://www.pghoph.org).

PITTSBURGH OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY  
43rd Annual Meeting  
for  
**OPHTHALMIC PERSONNEL**  
*Sponsored by the*  
PITTSBURGH OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY



**MARCH 10, 2023**  
Omni William Penn Hotel  
530 William Penn Pl Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Course Directors  
Pamela P. Rath, MD • Avni P. Vyas, MD • Zachary Nadler, MD



## Thank you to all who volunteered for Mission of Mercy Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>

When we wrote to announce our second year of participation in Mission of Mercy, we challenged ourselves to “go big.” Last year, our team prescribed glasses for roughly 250 people. We set a goal to double that. We are proud to report that our team exceeded all expectations and nearly tripled the number of people cared for.

The group of nearly 100 volunteers from our department and the greater Pittsburgh eye care community worked non-stop for two days to register, refract and fit glasses for over 700 adults and children. Once again, they identified pathologies – diabetic retinopathy, retinal detachments, cataract, glaucoma, and macular degeneration – and made appointments without charge for dozens of people who would not otherwise have access to eye care. The support from all the stakeholders of Mission of Mercy, of the Eye and Ear Foundation, Vision to Learn, and of the Essilor Foundation was enabling but you made it work, amazingly.

Thank you to everyone who wrote to share their experiences.

*I felt a cosmic connection to a greater purpose; something that has been missing in my life for a while.*



*An experience I'll never forget  
I love helping our neighbors.*

*Not only a rewarding  
experience to be able to help  
even just one person, but it made  
me a volunteer for M.O.M. for life  
to continue to help as many  
people as possible.*

*Seeing the number "nearly  
700" fitted for glasses, tears of  
joy began to fill my eyes and I still  
wish that we could have done  
more.*

*The mission reminds me of  
how I got my first, free pair of  
glasses due to the compassion-  
ate service of others.*

*Thank you for providing a  
chance to Pay it Forward!*

We are grateful for the help of every volunteer. You personified the values that motivate us all. We know many of you wanted to participate and could not. We pledge that you will have the opportunity to do so as we continue to accelerate our community service mission.

With warm gratitude,

**-Jake Waxman and José-Alain Sahel**

**Mark Your Calendar**  
**Mission of Mercy 2023 - Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24**

# POS 2022-2023 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## 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.

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