

Keeping POSted

Fall 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings everyone!

I hope you all have been having a wonderful summer! It seems the summer always flies by in the blink of an eye. I always feel a little sad when summer comes to an end and it starts getting cold again. However, I am really excited about our new POS meeting venue and all the great speakers we have coming up this year. I have a few things I'd like to address in this letter and will try to be as concise as possible.

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to have our monthly meetings at the Rivers Casino. Management at the Casino was hoping to book multi-day conferences with the opening of the new hotel. This would only give us a 45-day notice for each meeting, so we were forced to look for a new venue. With a group our size and the requirements for location we were not able to get everything on our wish list when looking for a new space. One of the things we could not accommodate was free parking, however I think our new meeting location will more than make up for the lack of free parking.

We are VERY excited to announce



Pamela P. Rath
President
Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society
2023-2025

that our new venue will be at the PNC Champions Club at Acrisure Stadium. The room is beautiful with a separate attached bar area. Both overlook the football field which is a spectacular view. I am thrilled for everyone to see our new home for the monthly meetings! We have also talked about potentially having a stadium tour prior to one of our meetings. We are working with our contact at Acrisure Stadium on logistics for a tour. Stay tuned!

I want to take a moment to reflect on how fortunate we all are to have such remarkable jobs. Granted it is not always easy and it is frequently quite stressful, but it is a real

privilege to provide care and to truly make a difference in the lives of our many patients. However, there are many in our community in need of our help, namely the working poor, uninsured families, and the homeless population. This is where we all have a real opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the underserved.

There are several volunteer opportunities right here in Pittsburgh. The first is the Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh 2023. This is a collaborative event with UPMC Vision Institute, Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society, and the Western Pennsylvania Optometric Society. The Mission is a two-day event which provides vision screening and free glasses for those in need. This year's event is at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on **Friday October 27th and Saturday October 28th**. We absolutely cannot do this without your help and participation. Mark your calendar and sign up for this worthy cause. Additional details and the link to register to volunteer can be found on page 7).

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The second is the Guerilla Eye Service (GES). The Guerilla Eye Service also provides screening exams, refractions, and free glasses for the underserved by taking the eye clinic to the communities in need. The clinic is run by medical students and is set up in different locations throughout Pittsburgh primarily on Saturday mornings from 9PM -1PM. The students are first- and second-year students with one student who acts as the clinic coordinator. There are two UPMC ophthalmology residents who help mentor the students as well as refract all the patients. Each clinic also requires an attending physician. This is where we come into the picture. GES is always looking for faculty volunteers. I have volunteered multiple times and found it to be a fun and rewarding experience. The patients are extremely grateful, and it is a really nice opportunity to interact with the medical students and residents. I am always impressed by what a terrific job they do at their level of training. It is also fantastic to see medicine through their eyes. The wonder and enthusiasm they have for medicine is a refreshing change from the normal daily routine. **Please consider volunteering for these clinics.** Our participation is needed, and we are really making a difference in the lives of those in need. Email Jake Waxman if you would like to be added to the email list of volunteers for the GES.

The last topic I would like to cover is membership to our local and state societies. If you do not already have membership to the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO), Allegheny County Medical Society (ACMS), and the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) PLEASE join. The benefits they provide for all of us are substantial. Among other things the PAMED has free CME, a lot of which is required for renewing our PA medical license. I find it to be an incredibly concise and easy process to get through. That alone is worth the membership in my opinion! ACMS provides association management services for our organization. This is invaluable as we would not be able to run the POS in an efficient and smooth manner without their administrative expertise.

So, let's talk about the PAO. They also provide free CME, grand rounds, a Young Ophthalmology division with early practice education and the Business of Ophthalmology (BOO) educational series for residents and ophthalmologists. But in my opinion the most important thing the PAO provides is their continued legislative efforts. We all need to be a part of that effort by supporting the PAO with our continued membership.

One of the important issues the PAO is working on is the optometrist supported bill (HB562

and SB 780) that mandates comprehensive exams for every child multiple times regardless of lack of issues or complaints. There is no medical benefit whatsoever for these exams. Mandatory screening is already in place with act 122 which requires screening of all children prior to entering school then yearly though grade 5 and every other year from grades 6-12. Comprehensive exams are required if screening is failed. We all know our pediatric ophthalmology colleagues are extremely busy. If this bill is passed it will overwhelm an already overloaded system with healthy children, putting those in need at risk of not being seen in a timely manner.

What will really help is for all of us to build relationships with our legislators and talk to them about these and other health issues. The PAO provides talking points which are readily available on their website. So, let's all support the PAO and our other local societies by becoming members as well as contacting our local legislators.

Thanks to all our board members. Thank you to Nadine for her tireless work making sure everything goes according to plan and runs like clockwork! We have a great line-up of wonderful speakers for both the monthly and annual meetings. Enjoy the last days of summer, I look forward to seeing everyone again in September!

Pamela P. Rath, MD

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND NEWS

Thank you to all who renewed their dues for 2023. Our membership remained constant with 170 members in 2023 compared to 172 members in 2022.

We welcomed 7 new members from September 2022 through February 2023. A list of new members can be found in the box above.

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.

Welcome to the following new members (September 2022 through June 2023)

Bhumi Kinariwala, MD
Anagha Medsinge, MD
Phoebe Mellen, MD
Samir Patel, MD

Joshua Paul, MD
Boris Rosin, MD, PhD
Sara Stewart, DO

Invite a Non-Member To An Upcoming Meeting!

A reminder! Non-members are also 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).

**Eric A. Pennock, MD,
Chair, Membership**

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES - BEGINNING OCT 1

Membership dues statements will be sent electronically October 1st. Yearly dues are \$450 and are instrumental and key in defraying the cost of providing quality educational programming each month.

For your convenience, credit card payments can be submitted online. Members can visit www.pghoph.org and log in to their account. A membership renewal notification will appear with instructions on how to remit payment online. Checks also are accepted and can be made payable to Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society.

We are fortunate as an organization to serve a dynamic 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 for your continued support and submitting dues in a timely manner.

2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

I'd like to express gratitude for your continued support of the Society and to advise of an increase in membership dues for 2024. Due to increasing venue and overall meetings costs, the Board of Directors unanimously agreed to an increase. Membership dues will increase from \$400 to \$450 for 2024. This was not an easy decision, but it was necessary. The Society will continue to subsidize a portion of the costs for a member to attend a monthly meeting, and the increase in dues will decrease the cost per person to the Society.

The benefits and value of membership are strong. The POS is one of the few local specialty organizations that meet monthly and welcome 55 to 65 attendees each month. 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. I look forward to your continued support and seeing you at an upcoming meeting. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or comments. I can be reached at prprath@yahoo.com.

Pamela P. Rath, MD, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Society account balances remain stable, and we continue the trend of a profit from the Annual Spring meeting. Strong vendor support and a decrease in speaker travel fees aided in the profit.

For the 2022-2023 monthly meeting series (September 2022 through March 2023) the overall monthly meeting expenses increased due to an increase in venue prices and speaker travel expenses.

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). Unfortunately, we saw a higher than anticipated number of members who registered and did not attend the meeting. This impacted on the expenses for each monthly meeting.

Vendor support remained strong with the Society welcoming 1 to 3 vendors for each meeting. The Society relies on vendor support to reduce the cost of each meeting. We are actively working to secure 100% support for the 2023-2024 monthly meeting series.

Membership dues also are instrumental in sustaining our accounts. POS membership is an excellent value, not just 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 2023-2024 and the future!

Laurie A. Roba, MD, Treasurer

POS Board, Committee Appointments Announced

Pamela P. Rath, MD, was appointed President of the POS on March 9, 2023 and will serve a two-year term. 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 from 2016 through 2023. 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, 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.

Laurie A. Roba, MD – was elected President-Elect of the POS and accepted the nomination at the February 8, 2023 monthly meeting. Dr. Roba will serve a two-year term. She has been an active member of the POS since 2004, serving as a Course Director of the Ophthalmic Personnel program from 2016 through 2019 and Treasurer from 2020 to present. Dr. Roba was born in Buffalo, NY and is a graduate of Brown University. She obtained her medical degree at the



Dr. Pamela P. Rath



Dr. Laurie A. Roba



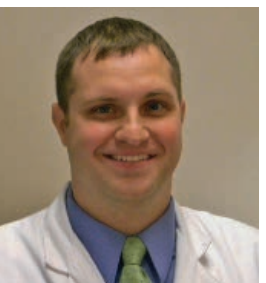
Dr. Timothy Chen



Dr. Jared Knickelbein



Dr. Srinivas Kondapalli



Dr. Jeffrey T. Wincko

State University of NY at Buffalo, followed by an internship in Internal Medicine at Millard Fillmore Hospitals in Buffalo, NY. She then attended the Eye and Ear Institute in Pittsburgh, PA where she did her residency in Ophthalmology and a fellowship in Corneal and External Disease.

She has been in private practice for 30 years in Fox Chapel, PA. and has performed numerous ophthalmic procedures including refractive cataract surgery, penetrating keratoplasty, PRK, PTK, and LASIK.

Timothy Chen, MD, PhD – third year resident at the UPMC Vision Institute has been selected to serve as resident appointee to the Board of Directors. Dr. Chen will assist in planning the 2024 Allied meeting.

Jared Knickelbein, MD, PhD – Board of Director, accepted the appointment to chair the Provider Relations Committee, previously held by Joel Brown, MD. Dr. Knickelbein is a retina specialist at Retina Vitreous Consultants.

Srinivas Kondapalli, MD – Accepted the appointment to serve as Public Relations Chair. Dr. Kondapalli is affiliated with Everett & Hurite Eyecare Specialists.

Jeffrey T. Wincko, MD – Accepted the appointment to serve as a Course Director for the Ophthalmic Personnel Meeting. Dr. Wincko will work with Course Directors Avni Vyas, MD, Cari Lyle, MD, and Timothy Chen, MD. Dr. Wincko is affiliated with East Suburban Ophthalmologists.

Welcome! UPMC Vision Institute 2023 – 2024 Residents and Fellows

First Year Class (2023 - 2026)



Oliver Beale, MD



Amani Davis, MD



Aidan Dmitriev, MD



Crystal Lee, MD



Samyuktha Melachuri, MD



Ryan Williamson, MD

Second Year Class (2022 - 2025)



Patricia Campos, MD



Raven Diacou, MD



Doowon Huh, MD



Saloni Kapoor, MD



Christina Kong, MD



Gideon Nkrumah, MD

Third Year Class (2021 - 2024)



Sonny Caplash, MD



Timothy Chen, MD



Jonathan Peterson, MD



Matthew Sommers, MD



Bushra Usmani, MD



Jacob Winters, MD

Fellow Class



Tatyana Beketova, MD
Retina



Kyle Fallgatter, MD
Retina



Marjan Fooladi, MD
Pediatrics



Christopher Hampton, MD
Cornea



Farid Kalantaritari, MD
Pediatrics



Zachary Nadler, MD
Glaucoma

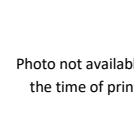


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Fatima tun Nissa Raza, MD
Neuro



Tadhg Schempf, MD
Glaucoma



Anna Terrarosa, MD
Oculoplastics

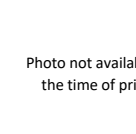


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the time of print.

Angeli Yu, MD
Cornea

The members of the Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society welcome UPMC Vision Institute new residents and fellows and acknowledge current faculty. We look forward to their participation at an upcoming monthly meeting.

Serving as Chief Resident is **Jonathan Peterson, MD, MS**, Third Year Resident in Ophthalmology. Dr. Peterson, along with Dr. Timothy Chen will coordinate resident presenters for the monthly meetings hosted by the Society.



Dr. Jonathan Peterson

Mark Your Calendar!



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28



Join Us in Making a Visionary Impact - Volunteer for Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh!

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope this email finds you well and filled with an excitement and passion for community service as we embark on a journey to change lives once again. We are proud to announce that the UPMC Vision Institute, Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society, and the Western Pennsylvania Optometric Society will be participating in the Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh event at the David Lawrence Convention Center for the third consecutive year. This year we'll be providing care on **Friday, October 27th and Saturday, October 28th**. We need your support to make this event a success again.

Over the past two years, we have witnessed the transformative power of our collective efforts. We have extended our care to the underserved members of our community, offering vision screening and prescribing glasses to our neighbors in need. From the working poor to the homeless, veterans to uninsured families, we have made a significant impact on their lives by providing access to essential eye care services.

Last year, we accomplished great things together. With 10 refraction lanes, we were able to provide vision screening and free glasses for over 700 individuals over two days. We went beyond glasses though, offering no-charge eye appointments for many who required additional care. The response we received from those we served was overwhelming, reminding us of the profound difference we can

make through our compassion and expertise.

To make this year's event another success, **we need you**. We need you to dedicate your time, skills, and compassion to the cause. We need optometrists, ophthalmologists, and refracting techs who can help us provide much needed care for both adults and children.

By volunteering for any number of 6-hour sessions, you can play an integral role in transforming lives and restoring vision for those who would otherwise go without the care they desperately need. You will make a world of difference.

Are you ready to join us on this inspiring journey of service and compassion?

Sign up as a volunteer at 2023 MOM Vision Volunteer Registration.

Together, we can make Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh 2023 another event to remember—a beacon of hope and a testament to the transformative power of unity and service. We look forward to working alongside you as we change lives, one pair of glasses at a time.

Warm regards, Katie, Jake, Lawney and Jose

2022 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Thank you to all clinical and general volunteers for your support of Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh 2022!

Together MOM was able to provide dental, eye, and ear care to over 1,450 patients for FREE!

2023 VAN ESSEN AWARD RECIPIENT

Mission of Mercy was awarded the Van Essen Award for “significant contributions to the visual welfare of the public” from the Western PA Optometric Society.

Accepting the award on behalf of Mission of Mercy in the photo on the right: Dr. Jake Waman (Eye and Ear), Keith Young (MOM Administrative Director), Erick Henderson (Western PA Optometric Society).



PAO 2022-2023 LEADERSHIP

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 and our profession.

Pennsylvania Academy
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, Legislative and 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 P. Zelt, MD

Legislative Update

Over the past year, the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology has been heavily engaged in Harrisburg. With the legislature on summer recess, it is a great time to learn about what PAO has been doing in Harrisburg over the past year.

Medicaid Reimbursement:

Over the past year, PAO has begun advocacy efforts with the Legislature and Governor's office to educate them about the need to increase reimbursement rates.

- The Commonwealth currently has one of the lowest reimbursement rates for patient visits in the country.

- Over 1.5 million children are served by Medicaid in Pennsylvania.

Increasing reimbursement will help to bridge the reimbursement gap for the physicians currently accepting Medicaid while incentivizing more physicians to accept Medicaid, thus helping to increase access for patients.

Mandatory Eye Examinations:

This year legislation has been reintroduced in both the House and Senate that would mandate unnecessary comprehensive eye exams or eye health and vision examinations for Pennsylvania's school-age children. The legislation as proposed (House Bill 562 and Senate Bill 720) would require that students receive a comprehensive

eye exam or eye health and vision examination a minimum of three times throughout a child's school career.

Currently in Pennsylvania, students are required to receive a vision screening prior to enrolling in school for the first time. In addition, students are required to receive a vision screening every year from kindergarten through the 5th grade, and then every other year from 5th grade up through 12th grade.

Summer Advocacy:

The PAO has launched its summer advocacy campaign and we need your participation! This summer, with legislators at home until mid-September, is the perfect time to create a relationship with your elected officials or continue to maintain a pre-established relationship!

Please consider participating in our summer advocacy program! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Tyler at Tyler@millirongoodman.com and he will provide you with any needed information!

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.

**Tyler Burke, Associate, Milliron Goodman |
Government Relations**



Thorpe Circle

As of June 31, 2023, the fund's balance is \$51,914.56 compared to \$47,941.21 from June 2022.

Membership stands at 79 members which is made up of Founding and Continuing the Legacy members. The Thorpe Circle welcomes Andrew Williams, MD, who joined March 2023.

All monies are invested in the Vanguard Life Strategy Moderate Growth Fund. The ultimate goal is to grow the fund so that it will be self-sustaining in the future to support the Thorpe Lecturer and sustain the long-term education mission of the POS.

Established in 2014, the Thorpe Circle was created to offset the costs of the Thorpe Lecturer. Your donation strengthens the fund and enables the POS to continue the tradition of excellence by inviting distinguished guest faculty to serve as the Thorpe Lecturer.

Donations may be in the form of an annual contribution, estate planning, by patients or family members in honor of an ophthalmologist (practicing or retired), or in memoriam.

To join the Thorpe Circle or to donate as a Sustaining Member, please visit the Thorpe Circle tab on the POS website and click on download the donation form.

Michae J. Azar, MD, Thorpe Circle Administrator

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE THORPE CIRCLE

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

FOR CURRENT MEMBERS

For those who are currently members, thank you for your support. A sustaining category was recently established for Thorpe Circle members (the dollar amount is left up to discretion of the individual). Please consider a contribution in the sustaining category.

**Visit www.pghoph.org
for POS news and updates**

Thank You Thorpe Circle Members! (as of June 2023)

Founding Members (Est. March 2014)

Michael J. Azar, MD	Denise S. Gallagher, MD
David J. Baker, MD	Jean C. Harwick, MD
Chris A. Balouris, MD	Karen B. Lauer, MD
Dr. & Mrs. Constantine A. Balouris	Cari Lyle, MD
Ivan Baumwell, MD*	John C. Maher, MD
Robert L. Bergren, MD	John M. Mikulla, MD
Dr. Peter J. Berkowitz*	Miroya J. Monsour, MD
Albert W. Biglan, MD	Donald Morris, DO
Richard A. Bowers, MD*	Barry D. Moskowitz, MD
Joel D. Brown, MD	Karl R. Olsen, MD
Daniel E. Buerger, MD, FACS*	Paul M. Phillips, MD
David G. Buerger, MD, FACS	Scott L. Portnoy, MD
George F. Buerger, Jr. MD, FACS	Allan J. Press, MD
Brian J. Caputo, MD	Pamela R. Rath, MD
Edward J. Chang, MD	E. Ronald Salvitti, MD*
John A. Charley, MD	Joseph J. Scherer, MD
Kenneth P. Cheng, MD	Michael P. Schneider, MD
Phillip H. Choo, MD	Joel Schuman, MD, FACS
Lisa M. Cibik, MD, FACS	Marshall W. Stafford, MD
Garry P. Condon, MD	Theressa B. Strong, MD
Ian P. Conner, MD, PhD	John C. Stuart, MD
P. William Conrad, MD, PhD	Sharon L. Taylor, MD, FACS*
Bernard H. Doft, MD	Thomas W. Uhleim, MD
Norman L. Edelstein, MD, FACS	Thierry Verstraeten, MDa
William M. Fronczek, Jr., MD*	Edmond C. Watters, MD
	Evan Waxman, MD, PhD
	Gary S. Weinstein, MD, FACS
	Jeffrey T. Wincko, MD
	Roger P. Zelt, MD

Continuing the Legacy Members (Contribution after 2014)

Roxana Barad, MD	Eric A. Pennock, MD
Lance M. Bodily, MD	Laurie Roba, MD
Jennifer Salvitti Davis, MD	Pinchas Rosenberg, MD
Andrew W. Eller, MD	Deepam Rusia, MD, MBA
Charles J. Hrach, MD	José-Alain Sahel, MD
Seth A. Holst, MD	Shripaad Y. Shukla, MD
Jared Knickelbein, MD, PhD	John S. Swogger, DO
Joseph N. Martel, MD	Avni Vyas, MD
Lisa M. Nath, MD	Andrew M. Williams, MD
Heo-Jeng (Eugene) Ooi, MD	Irving G. Weinberger, MD

Continuing the Legacy Members. (Contribution after 2014)

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
- Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society

* denotes Sustaining Member

PITTSBURGH OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY 58TH ANNUAL MEETING - HIGHLIGHTS!



The Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society, under the leadership of President Marshall Stafford, MD, hosted their 58th Annual Meeting on March 10 at the Omni William Penn Hotel. The in-person event attracted over 90 physicians and welcomed distinguished ophthalmologist **Leon W. Herndon, Jr., MD**, who served as the 42nd Annual Harvey E. Thorpe Lecturer. Dr. Herndon presented several exceptional presentations.

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. Herndon, Professor of Ophthalmology, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina is member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and was a member of the first class of the Leadership Development Program. He currently serves as Chief of the Glaucoma Division at the Duke University Eye Center where he has trained 84 clinical fellows and was recently appointed the president of the American Glaucoma Society.

The full-day program included lectures from prominent and prominent and distinguished guest faculty:

Philip Custer, MD, FACS - Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, John E. Hardesty, MD Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO. **Tom Oetting, MS, MD** - Professor in Clinical Ophthalmology, Deputy Director, VA Medical Center Surgical Service, Associate Residency Program Director, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA; **Michelle Pineda, MBA** - Risk Management Specialist, Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company (OMIC); **José Alain-Sahel, MD** - Distinguished Professor and Chairman; The Eye and Ear Endowed Chair Department of Ophthalmology; Director, UPMC Vision Institute, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Pittsburgh, PA.



(l to r): Leon W. Herndon, Jr., MD, 42nd Annual Harvey E. Thorpe Lecturer, receives the Thorpe Scroll from Marshall Stafford, MD.



(l to r) Guest Faculty Thomas Oetting, MS, MD; José-Alain Sahel, MD; Pamela P. Rath, MD (President-Elect); Marshall W. Stafford, MD (President); and Guest Faculty Philip Custer, MD, FACS.

The Society is grateful for our exhibitors and not-for-profit organizations who continually support the annual program.

A complete list of vendors can be found on page 15.



Annual Banquet 2023

The 2023 Annual Banquet was held the evening prior to the annual meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023. Attendance was exceptional with 65 members and guests enjoying the gathering (a 40% increase in attendance from the previous year).

The Sofia room at the Hotel Monaco provided a chic, yet casual setting for members and guests to enjoy fellowship and camaraderie.

Hosting the event the evening before the conference provided the opportunity for several guest faculty members to join the evening's festivities and take advantage of meeting members and their guests.

The evening concluded with remarks from outgoing president, Marshall W. Stafford, MD, and comments from Pamela P. Rath, MD, who was installed as President.

Feedback on the Thursday evening event was extremely favorable. Save the date for the 2024 Annual Banquet scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024.



43rd Ophthalmic Personnel Meeting

Thank you to all members whose staff attended the 43rd Meeting for Ophthalmic Personnel. The course attracted over 150 attendees, comparable to registration pre-pandemic! Evaluations from the conference were stellar with many positive comments on speaker presentations.

Course directors Pamela Rath, MD; Avni Vyas, MD; Cari Lyle, MD; and Zachary Nadler, MD, PhD; prepared an exceptional offering for Ophthalmic staff. Course presentations included: Glaucoma, Cornea, Neuro-Ophthalmology, and Oculoplastic.

The conference, in its 43rd year, provides a quality educational opportunity for ophthalmic personnel in and around the region and continually attracts well-respected local faculty, who present relevant and timely instruction through general and breakout sessions.

A highlight of the course was *R-E-F-R-A-C-T: Oh! What Fun it Can Be Workshop*, presented by Kelly Moehrle, COMT, OSC, Eye Tech Training, Inc. Attendees were gathered into small groups of 3-5 students with instruction on the manual phoropter. This included identifying the various parts used in the refraction process as well as a presentation on the steps of manifest refraction. Attendees also had the opportunity to practice the manifest refraction technique on one another.

Thank you to the following POS members who accepted the invitation to present lectures. The course consistently receives stellar evaluations due to the commitment of members who give of their time to present quality lectures for ophthalmic personnel.

Phillip H. Choo, MD

Seth Fox, DO, MS, FAOCO

Zachary Nadler, MD, PhD

Samir N. Patel, MD

Eric A. Pennock, MD

Tadhg Schempf, MD

Andrew M. Williams, MD

A special thank you to Jake Waxman, MD, who coordinated logistics of procuring and delivering the equipment used in the workshop!





The POS relies on exhibit support to defray the costs of the annual meeting and keep registration fees to a minimum.

For 2023, we had excellent participation from numerous exhibitors and sponsors.

Thank you to all who attended the Annual meeting and who took time to engage with vendors in the exhibit area.



Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society

58th ANNUAL MEETING

March 10, 2023

Omni William Penn Hotel • Pittsburgh, PA

Thank You TO OUR SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS!

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2023-2024 Monthly Meetings Begin September 14



Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society Announces 2023-2024

Monthly and Annual Meetings Dates and New Monthly Meeting Location!

Pamela P. Rath, MD, President, along with the POS Board of Directors is pleased to announce the 2023-2024 POS Monthly Meeting Series and Annual Meeting dates. A total of six meetings are scheduled, beginning September and concluding with the Annual meeting on March 8, 2024.

The Society will host the monthly meetings as in-person events at their **new monthly meeting location,**

the PNC Champions Club at Acrisure Stadium (100 Art Rooney Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212). The venue is centrally located on the North Side with parking available in several lots that are within walking distance of the stadium. Please visit the POS website for additional details.

Registration begins at 4:00 pm with the first lecture beginning at 4:30 pm. The Agenda includes a Resident Case Presentation.

This year's second-year resident presenters from the UPMC Vision Institute include: **Doowon Huh, MD; Saloni Kapoor, MD; Patricia Campos, MD; Raven Diacou, MD; and Gideon Nkrumah, 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 managed on-line only.



IMPORTANT! CANCELLATION & NO SHOW POLICY

We look forward to welcoming you to the monthly meetings and understanding when an issue arises that conflicts with attending a meeting.

Last year, we noticed a trend of members not showing up to meetings they registered to attend, which cost the organization a considerable amount in catering fees. Food and beverage costs have increased within the past year and the POS incurs a portion of the cost for each member to attend the meeting.

To that end, the Board of Directors unanimously agreed to establish a No-Show Policy.

If you are registered for the meeting and cannot attend, please contact Nadine Popovich to cancel your registration.

The window to cancel, for the Society to not incur the expense for the cost of your meal, is 5 days from the meeting date.

If you do not show up for the meeting, a \$50 charge *maybe* implemented. Nadine Popovich will contact you by email to discuss.

Thank you for your cooperation in registering in a timely manner and for canceling your reservation if you are unable to attend.

With appreciation,

Pamela P. Rath, MD
President

2023 | 2024 MONTHLY MEETING SERIES GUEST FACULTY AND DATES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023	Hajirah Saeed, MD
OCTOBER 5, 2023	Carol Shields, MD
DECEMBER 14, 2023	Natasha Nayak Kolomeyer, MD
JANUARY 11, 2024	Tarek Hassan, MD
FEBRUARY 8, 2024	Alon Kahana, MD, PhD

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)





The monthly meeting series begins **September 14th** with guest speaker **Hajirah Saeed, MD**, Associate Visiting Professor University of Illinois College of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology, Chicago IL; Lecturer on Ophthalmology (part-time); Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. Thank you to Srinivas Kondapalli, MD for inviting Dr. Saeed.

Dr. Saeed joined the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences in 2022 as a Visiting Associate Professor, with a specialty in Cornea and Refractive Surgery and a focus on the pediatric population. She is internationally recognized as an expert on Stevens Johnson syndrome (SJS) and has an NIH grant focusing on the genetics and epidemiology of

SJS. In addition, she and her team of researchers are working on novel diagnostic methods for various corneal pathology through machine learning, corneal collagen crosslinking in pediatric patients, and sustainable eye banking in the developing world.



The Society welcomes **Carol L. Shields, MD**, Chief, Ocular Oncology Service, Wills Eye Hospital Professor of Ophthalmology, Thomas Jefferson University of Philadelphia as guest faculty for the **October 5** meeting. Thank you to Pamela Rath, MD, for inviting Dr. Shields. Dr. Shields completed her ophthalmology training at Wills Eye in 1987 and subsequently did fellowship training in ocular oncology, oculoplastic surgery, and ophthalmic pathology. She has authored or coauthored 12 textbooks, over 1400 articles in major journals, over 300 textbook chapters, given over 700 lectureships, and many awards. The 5 most prestigious honors include:

- The Donders Award (2003) given by the Netherlands Ophthalmological Society every 5 years to an ophthalmologist worldwide who has contributed to the field of ophthalmology. She was the first woman to receive this award.
- The American Academy of Ophthalmology Life Achievement Honor Award (2011) for contributions to the field of ophthalmology.

There is **no meeting in November** as the American Academy of Ophthalmology's national meeting will take place November 3-6, 2023.



Ending 2023 on a high note the POS welcomes **Natasha Nayak Kolomeyer, MD** on **December 14**. A Board-certified ophthalmologist and Fellowship-trained Glaucoma Specialist at Wills Eye Hospital, she is also an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA. Thank you to Sharon Taylor, MD, FACS for extending the invitation to Dr. Kolomeyer.

Dr. Kolomeyer has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants throughout her career. These include the Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology; the Mentoring for the Advancement of Physician Scientists grant as well as the Healthcare Policy Leadership Development grant from the American Glaucoma Society; the Resident Excellence Award and Resident Research grant from the American Society

of Cataract and Refractive Surgery; and The Chairman's Award for Academic Honors and Distinction from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary.

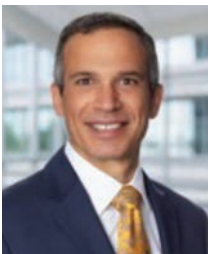
Dr. Kolomeyer is the author of numerous book chapters and 35+ peer-reviewed publications and serves on committees for the American Glaucoma Society, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology.



To welcome in the new year, the **January 11, 2024** meeting features **Tarek Hassan, MD**, Professor of Ophthalmology at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine; Senior Partner and previous Director, Vitreoretinal Fellows Training Program at Associated Retinal Consultants; President, American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS), Royal Oak, MI. Thank you to Thierry Verstraeten, MD, for inviting Dr. Hassan.

Dr. Hassan has an active clinical and academic practice. He is involved in a wide array of both basic science and clinical vitreoretinal research studies and has served as principal investigator or co-investigator in more than 100 national trials, notably in the areas of macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal vein occlusion, and vitreoretinal surgery. He has authored and co-authored more than 160 papers in peer-reviewed journals and 8 books or book chapters for medical texts. He is a scientific reviewer for all the leading journals within ophthalmology and retina, and on the editorial board of several.

He has been a leader in the areas of retinal detachment repair, diabetic retinopathy, and macular degeneration, and has lectured extensively nationally and internationally for many years, giving more than 450 presentations on these topics. He was awarded the AAO Achievement Award in 2003, the ASRS Senior Honor Award in 2004, and the AAO Senior Achievement Award in 2013. He has also been named to the “Best Doctors in America” listing every year since 2000. He has been very committed to retina fellow education, and in the past twenty years, he has had the distinct honor to train 34 clinical vitreoretinal fellows and over 20 international research fellows.



Wrapping up the 2023-2024 monthly meeting series on **February 8, 2024**, the Society welcomes **Alon Kahana, MD, PhD** with Kahana Oculoplastic & Orbital Surgery. Dr. Kahana is a Professor & Vice Chair of Ophthalmology; Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine; Rochester, MI. Thank you to David Buerger, MD, FACS and Cari Lyle, MD for inviting Dr. Kahana.

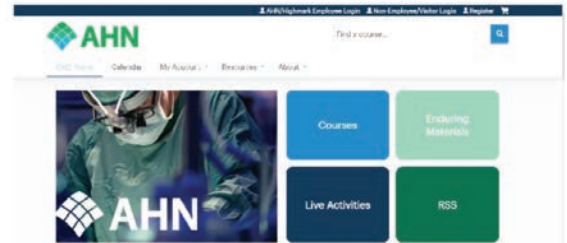
An internationally renowned expert in orbital and ophthalmic plastic surgery, Dr. Kahana is a sought-after lecturer and a respected leader in our field. He is a Program Director for an ASOPRS-approved fellowship in oculofacial plastic surgery, and teaches ophthalmology residents from Beaumont, Ascension and Kresge/Wayne State University.

He has authored over 80 peer-reviewed publications, multiple book chapters and reviews, and has given >100 lectures throughout the United States and internationally, including several endowed lectures and visiting professorships. In 2020, Dr. Kahana was given the honor of delivering the annual Ralph E. Wesley ASOPRS Foundation Lecture. Dr. Kahana has served in numerous leadership positions, including as President of the North American Society of Academic Orbital Surgeons (NASAOS) and Chair of the Thesis Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee for ASOPRS. He is also a Program Director for his own ASOPRS fellowship.

Contact Nadine Popovich, administrator, to confirm the status of your membership, registration questions, or to inquire about an upcoming program. She can be reached by email: npopovich@acms.org or by phone: 412.321.5030 x110.

REFRESHER! PROCEDURE FOR CME EVALUATION AND CME TRANSCRIPT RETRIEVAL

The Society continues to use AHN Continuing Medical Education Department as our CME creditor guarantor. The same procedure implemented in 2019 by the Department is in place to provide members the opportunity to obtain their CME transcript quickly and easily. Members can retrieve their transcript after each meeting, as opposed to receiving it once a year.



You must complete the program evaluation within 2 weeks of the date of the program.

No exceptions.

Please Use the Text Code feature to record your attendance at each meeting!

A unique code is available at each monthly meeting. Text the code to the number provided. Attendees have until 9 pm the evening of the meeting to text the code to record their attendance.

POS Members wishing to receive CME Credit, please visit <https://cme.ahn.org> and login to the AHN Continuing Medical Education site. If you do not have an account, please visit the site and create one.

No CME will be given without a member creating an account.

The REGISTRATION Button is located on the home page, upper right hand side.

Complete the required information.

Email - Please provide an email that you frequent as the email you designate is the email that the evaluation link will be sent after each meeting!

NOTE: Physicians affiliated with AHN/Highmark should already have an established account.

POS transcripts will automatically be placed into this account.

To receive CME Credit:

- All meeting attendees **MUST sign the sign-in sheet** to verify they attended the meeting.
- **A "Text Code" is also available during the meeting.**
- Evaluation forms will not be distributed at each meeting, as in previous years. **Evaluations are facilitated on-line ONLY.**

To Complete Your Evaluation After each Meeting

- Visit <https://cme.ahn.org>
- Login with your username and password
- Once you Login, there will be a "Pending Activity" notification with a link to complete the evaluation.
- Click on the link and complete the evaluation
- Once completed, you will have access to a CME transcript at this time

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2024 DATES!



The Society will host the 59th Annual Meeting and 44th Ophthalmic Personnel Meeting on March 8, 2024 at the Omni William Penn Hotel. Planning is underway for both programs and members will be notified as details for each meeting are finalized.

Daniel F. Martin, MD – 43rd Annual Harvey E. Thorpe Lecturer

The Society is pleased to announce Daniel F. Martin, MD as the 43rd Annual Harvey E. Thorpe Lecturer at the 59th Annual Meeting. Thank you to Jared Knickelbein, MD, PhD, for extending the invitation to Dr. Martin.

Dr. Martin is the Chair of the Cole Eye Institute at Cleveland Clinic. In this role, he is responsible for the Institute's strategic growth in all areas, including clinical and surgical care of patients, safety and quality, research, education and philanthropy. Dr. Martin is also the Barbara and A. Malachi Mixon III Institute Chair in Ophthalmology. He is a Professor of Ophthalmology at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Previously, Dr. Martin served as the Thomas M. Aaberg Professor of Ophthalmology. He's also had roles as the Director of the Retina Service and Interim Chair of Ophthalmology at Emory University School of Medicine.

Dr. Martin graduated from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed a residency and chief residency in ophthalmology at Emory University School of Medicine. He completed a fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery and diseases at Duke University Eye Center followed by a fellowship in uveitis and ocular immunology at the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Martin also completed a 10-month program in Managing Healthcare Delivery at Harvard Business School.

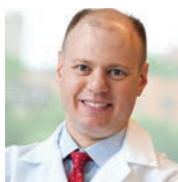
Dr. Martin is the recipient of many awards, including the Sam and Maria Miller Award for Scientific Achievement in Clinical Research and the J. Donald M. Glass Lectureship Award from the Retina Society.



Distinguished Guest Faculty (confirmed at the time of print) include:



Jane C. Edmond, MD Chair & Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Wong Family Distinguished University Chair, Director, Mitchel and Shannon Wong Eye Institute; The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, Austin, TX.



Joshua D. Stein, MD, MS

Edward T. and Ellen K. Dryer Career Development Professor in Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences; Associate Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences; University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center, Ann Arbor, MI.

POS 2023-2024

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The Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society
Physicians Defining Eye Care in Southwestern PA

Society Mission

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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Thank You

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