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***“To promote global eye health and prevent blindness through training program accreditation, education and the certification of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel.”***

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## President's Message

Dear Certificants,

As we move into Fall and the third quarter of 2020, we can look at COVID-19 and how it has changed our work and home environments. Now is also a good time to look at the positive impact that IJCAHPO and your certification have made on your life!

- Patient respect for you. Your credentials communicate that you care enough to be the best by meeting high professional standards.
- The admiration you have gained from your ophthalmologists and colleagues by demonstrating your participation in continuing education (CE) on the latest and important diagnostic techniques, treatments and surgical procedures, and showing that maintaining your certification and education is one of your top priorities.
- You are unsurpassed in your field because you have proven through certification that you have met and exceeded minimum standards compared to other non-certified ophthalmic assistants and technicians.



***Did you know that this year IJCAHPO offered our certificants:***

- 4 free webinars on EyeCareCE.

- Annual CE Keynote address – free CE credit to attendees.
- Economical CE credits, with some less than \$5.00 per CE credit.
- IJCAHPO's Clinic CE Subscriptions cost your clinic less than \$1.50 per person for CE credits online.
- CE credit webinar specials at the low price of 4 webinars for \$25.
- IJCAHPO International Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) Salary and Benefits Study respondents will soon receive a complimentary copy of the report, which is the single, largest Ophthalmic Assistant, Technician and Medical Technologist Study ever conducted worldwide!
- Career planning and job search services free to certificants.
- Scholarships and grant funding (free money to support your continuing education and certification examination fees) available from JCAHPO's Education & Research Foundation – application required!
- Shopping in IJCAHPO's Bookstore for free and low-cost educational books and packages!

**Make IJCAHPO your one-stop location to certify/recertify and earn CE credits at a low cost! We look forward to welcoming you at our first virtual ACE meeting!**

Neil Choplin, MD, President



## **48th Annual Continuing Education (ACE) Program**

**ACE 2020 has a new look!** Choose from Virtual Broadcast or Virtual On-Demand!

*Experience a variety of professional development opportunities. No matter where you are in your career, you will learn something new, relevant and practical!*

### **Virtual Broadcast 3-Day Program (Nov. 7, 14, 15) – No Quizzes!**

- **Over 20 online courses** with CE credits for the experienced professional seeking advanced, leading-edge ophthalmic topics
- Courses are bundled into **online broadcast** tracks over 3 days
- **Harold A. Stein, MD Lecture** presented via virtual broadcast on **COVID-19 and Other Emerging Infectious Diseases** by **Gary Holland, MD**, UCLA Stein Eye Institute
- **Capstone Lectures Live! Innovations in Ophthalmology** – Six world-renowned faculty speaking on cutting-edge topics in ophthalmology

### **Virtual On-Demand Program (Nov. 7-Dec. 30) – No Quizzes!**

- **Over 100 online courses** with CE credits for those technicians starting to explore their career and training for the seasoned ophthalmic professional seeking advanced, leading-edge ophthalmic topics
- Select as many ACE courses and CE credits as you like and watch them at your convenience

### **Additional ACE Offerings (Additional registration and fees may apply.)**

- **Sub-Specialty Sessions** on front-line topics in 5 sessions with star speakers
- **Learning Labs** on premier ophthalmic equipment
- **New! Roundtable Sessions** on key topics important to today's practices
- **New! EYEXchange FREE** forum to connect with your peers on topics selected by attendees
- **Certification Exam Prep Courses\*** to validate your examination content area knowledge

*\*IJCAHPO does not require nor guarantee a passing score on the COA, COT, or COMT examinations with the purchase of and the participation in the IJCAHPO COA, COT, or COMT certification examination preparation courses.*

- Allergan **TechAlliance Event**
- **Virtual Exhibit Hall**

Register for ACE!

## **IJCAHPO Updates**

### **Refinements Available in Print and Online**

Do you need a flexible distance learning option that is text/print-based and online? Refinements modules help you expand your ophthalmic knowledge while earning CE credits at your own pace, from any location. Refinements are single-topic articles and quiz packages authored by leading ophthalmologists and technicians.

*IJCAHPO awards 1 Group A Continuing Education Credit to those who successfully complete the Refinements module quiz.*

### **NOW AVAILABLE!**

- Challenges in Refraction: Troubleshooting Refraction Problems
- Neuroimaging of the Ophthalmic Patient

### **COMING SOON!**

- **Refinements Module 48:** Optical Coherence Tomography in Children With Unexplained Vision Loss and Electrophysiology and Imaging Techniques in the Evaluation of Congenital Nystagmus by Xiaosong Zhu, COMT  
*Sonia (Xiaosong) Zhu, COMT, is the winner of the 2015 and 2019 Harold A. Stein, MD, FRCSC, Prize for Best Scientific Paper. This Refinements module is a combination of both of her award-winning papers.*

[Complete library of Refinements available here.](#)

### **Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) Week, November 9-15**

*Save the Date!* AOP Week is an international promotion by the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO) to recognize AOP, their contribution to eye care, and increase public awareness of ophthalmic career opportunities. Watch your email in the coming months for an AOP Week toolkit and join us

November 9-15, 2020, on IJCAHPO's social media pages, as we celebrate and thank AOP.

## **Get Involved**

Would you and your colleagues like to be more involved in IJCAHPO and with others in the profession? There are many ways to be involved, from volunteering on a committee, presenting a course, to instructing a Learning Lab. IJCAHPO invites you to volunteer on our new Education, Certification, or Career Development Task Forces, to help shape the future of the Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) profession. Your commitment will be short-term and, typically, conducted during after-work conference calls or a future face-to-face meeting. You will be asked to serve at your certification level and area of interest.

If you are interested, please send an email to [volunteer@jcahpo.org](mailto:volunteer@jcahpo.org) with your name, address, certification, and contact information (preferred phone number and email address). We will contact you and provide more information about your opportunities.

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## **JCAHPO Foundation**

**Join our campaign to raise \$14,000 for 50 full scholarships to the ACE Virtual Broadcast Program! Be a donor or a recipient.**

### ***Donors***

The JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation seeks your help to support ophthalmic technician who been adversely affected and severely financially impacted by COVID-19. Our goal is to raise \$14,000, which will allow us to offer 50 scholarships to the ACE 2020 Virtual Broadcast 3-Day Program. With your help we can make it a reality.

All ophthalmic technicians are a vital part of the team, and those that have been severely impacted need our help. Your donation will support their continuing education and certification needs, which may not be achieved without it.

100% of the donations received will go to supporting this campaign.

**Please donate any amount you can to the Continuing Education Fund (under Scholarships and Grants) today.**

**DONATE**

### ***Recipients***

**Apply here for the Continuing Education Scholarships to the ACE Virtual Broadcast 3-Day Program.**

If you are an ophthalmic technician whose hours have been reduced, have been laid off, or furloughed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we invite you to apply for this year's ACE Scholarship by completing the online application.

**Deadline to apply: October 27**

**APPLY HERE**

**IJCAHPO and the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation are now and will always be here to support ophthalmic technicians.**

## **Jennie B. Busch Scholarships**

Susan Busch, BA, COMT, has worked hard to support eye care technicians. Susan's mother, Jennie B. Busch, was always supportive and dedicated to Susan's career. In honor of Susan's mother, she has established a scholarship fund for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP). IJCAHPO certified personnel or ATPO members may be eligible for the following scholarships:

### **Education Scholarship**

- All applicants must be either attending an accredited training program or pursuing continuing education credits
- Submit a one-page essay on "Why are well-trained AOPs a benefit to the patient?"
- See the application for complete details

### **Certification Scholarship**

- Applicants must intend to advance their certification level
- Submit a one-page essay on "Why are well-trained AOPs a benefit to the patient?"
- See the application for complete details

***Deadline to apply: November 30***

[To apply for the scholarship, complete and submit the application form on the Foundation's website.](#)

**September  
is Healthy  
Aging Month**

Ophthalmologists  
encourage making  
your eyes part  
of a healthy  
aging strategy.



## **Certification**

### **IJCAHPO Has Streamlined CE Credit Requirements!**

As of August 1, 2020, IJCAHPO only requires Group A credits for certification/recertification. Group B credits earned on or before July 31, 2020 that were also earned within your certification cycle will still be accepted with your next certification/recertification application.

AMA and CMA Category 1 courses for CME will no longer be accepted. IJCAHPO Council organizations that provide Certification, Recertification, and CE credits for its independent certifications shall be recognized for CE credit equivalency for IJCAHPO's recertification requirements. Currently, these organizations include the Ophthalmic Photographers' Society (OPS) and the American Orthoptic Council (AOC). IJCAHPO certificants who are dual certified with IJCAHPO certification and one or more of IJCAHPO's Council organizations will be eligible to submit 1/3 of their recertification credits that come from these Council organizations. The CE course content must meet IJCAHPO's examination content areas or CE credit content categories.

### **Looking for ways to obtain free CE credits?**

- **Teach a class** – Instructors may earn the same amount of credit as those attending the course. Each course may be counted once during a certification cycle.
- **Present a poster** – If you have presented a poster, you may submit it to the IJCAHPO Education Department for credit approval.
- **Write a paper** – If you have authored an article or paper, you may submit it to the IJCAHPO Education Department for credit approval.

For more information regarding obtaining credit approval for authoring a paper or poster, please contact the IJCAHPO Education Department.

**Letter from Christine McDonald, COA, COE, OSC, ROUB  
IJCAHPO Secretary of Education**

I am an ophthalmic technician (IJCAHPO certified since 1988), serve on the IJCAHPO Board of Directors as the Secretary of Education, and I am a practice manager, working for a practice with 40 techs who help provide patient care in our clinics. I would like to discuss IJCAHPO's new policies on Group A CE credit as your colleague and as a professional in our continuous learning goals.



There were several factors the IJCAHPO Board of Directors took into consideration when it made the decision to streamline credit options. Revenue was not one of them. By streamlining the A & B credit process, we eliminated the confusion that certificants have about the 2 tracks. We also are making it clearer regarding the educational track of acceptable courses for ophthalmic education, instead of courses, like photoshop, flipped classroom principles, and other courses that do not meet educational criteria for credits.

[Read More of Christine's Letter](#)

**Letter from Natalie Loyacano, COMT, ROUB, OSA, OCSR  
IJCAHPO Secretary of Certification**

I have been IJCAHPO certified since 1989 and now serve as IJCAHPO's Secretary of Certification on the Board of Directors. I would like to provide clarification on IJCAHPO's fees, certifications, and accreditation.



IJCAHPO is an educational, charitable, non-profit organization dedicated to its mission. As a Board member, I can assure you the Board does not make its decisions about certification and education with only revenue in mind, rather it makes decisions with technicians in mind. The Board has a Public Advisor who ensures that the organization acts in the best interests of us—Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP).

[Read More of Natalie's Letter](#)

**COMT Performance Test Now Available in a Virtual Format**

The computer-simulated COMT Performance Test is now delivered in a virtual format to candidates that are eligible to complete the examination. Eligibility includes successful completion of the COMT multiple-choice examination and the COT Skill Evaluation, if not

completed previously as part of becoming a COT. All candidates need to have access to a computer or laptop with a camera, microphone, and reliable internet. The examination may not be completed on a tablet. If you have questions regarding the computer-simulated COMT performance test, please contact the Certification Department at 800-284-3937 or [cert@jcahpo.org](mailto:cert@jcahpo.org).

### **Online Certification Examination Application Now Available!**

The online certification examination application is now available at [www.jcahpo.org/certification](http://www.jcahpo.org/certification). The paper certification examination application may be printed and submitted via mail if you prefer. Eligibility requirements remain unchanged.



**IJCAHPO Career Center**  
Don't miss the perfect job opportunity!

### **Employers have posted new job opportunities on IJCAHPO's Career Center.**

Remember to regularly log in to your account to:

1. View available job opportunities in your area
2. Upload your resume for potential employers
3. Customize your Job Alerts to be notified of new opportunities

This way, you will never miss the perfect opportunity! View the [IJCAHPO Career Center](#) to find your dream job now.

## **Education Updates and Offerings**

### **New CE Opportunities for 2020 – New Virtual Broadcast Events (VB) or Virtual On-Demand Events (VOD) in Fall 2020**

The world of education has changed quickly and significantly due to COVID-19. Virtual and distance education are the new educational modalities and we are excited to expand the ways we deliver our quality programs—in the safety of your home or clinic! IJCAHPO is offering Virtual On-Demand (VOD) CE Programs that attendees can complete at their own pace and earn CE credits by completing a quiz and evaluation. Also offered are Virtual Broadcast (VB) CE Programs where attendees do not need to take quizzes to demonstrate compliance.

### **Virtual Course Series – By Popular Demand, Now Available for Purchase Through September 30!**

- **Capstone Virtual On-Demand CE Program**

A collection of 13 short courses on leading-edge topics presented by experts in the field worth 6.25 IJCAHPO Group A credits at the low price of \$87.50 and is available until September 30, 2020. This course series is made possible with support by Allergan.

- [Las Vegas Virtual On-Demand CE Program](#)

Six hot topics presented by world-renowned faculty worth 6 IJCAHPO Group A credits at the low price of \$84 and is available until September 30, 2020. This course series is made possible with support by Allergan.

## Virtual and E-Learning Programs

October 10 and 17 (VB): [Orlando, FL – In cooperation with FSO](#)

November 7-December 30 (VB and VOD): [48th ACE Virtual Broadcast and On-Demand Program](#)

Visit [store.jcahpo.org](http://store.jcahpo.org) for details.

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## Tech Corner

We would like to welcome and introduce you to IJCAHPO's newest Board Members:

### **Barbara Harris, PA, MBA, COT, OSC – Director-at-Large**

Barbara Harris is a graduate of the Physician Assistant program of Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She earned her B.A. and M.B.A. from Wake Forest University. After spending a year as a PA in family practice, she worked as a PA in ophthalmology practices for twenty-one years.

[Read More of Barbara's Story](#)



### **Kent Rose, COMT – Director-at-Large**

Kent Rose, COMT, resides in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. He graduated from high school in 1994 and attended the University of Alberta/Mount Royal College 1995-1999. Kent entered the Ophthalmic Medical Technologist Training Program (OMTTP) at the Stanton Hospital in January 2000, graduated in January 2002, and became IJCAHPO COT certified at that time.

[Read More of Kent's Story](#)



**Do you have a story you'd like to share? We'd love to hear it!**

Please let us know by sending a note to [cert@jcahpo.org](mailto:cert@jcahpo.org). We will follow up and use your story to inspire others.

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# Clinic CE SUBSCRIPTION

Online courses for ophthalmic technicians

*The Best Value & Richest Content  
For Educating Your Team*

[jcahpo.org/ClinicCE](http://jcahpo.org/ClinicCE)



## **A tremendous way to save money for all clinical practices: Share this secret with your clinic manager!**

*IJCAHPO's Clinic CE Subscription, an extensive collection of online courses for ophthalmic technicians.*

IJCAHPO's Clinic CE Subscription for online education courses is the most cost-effective way to train and educate your eye care team! For only \$549, the Clinic CE Subscription offers all eye care team members in one location the use of the clinic's coupon code to access 170+ IJCAHPO Group A credit online courses. Visit [www.jcahpo.org/ClinicCE](http://www.jcahpo.org/ClinicCE) to learn more, call us at 1-800-284-3937 and select prompt "6", or email us at [subscriptions@jcahpo.org](mailto:subscriptions@jcahpo.org).

An advertisement for TechAlliance by Allergan. It features a woman's face on the right side. The text on the left includes the TechAlliance logo, the slogan 'Join the Alliance', and a list of benefits: 'Access patient savings, pharmacy callback guides, and patient counseling resources.' There is a 'Join the Alliance' button with a right-pointing arrow. At the bottom, there is a copyright notice: '© 2019 Allergan. All rights reserved. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners. CDT119323 01/19 183575'.

**Thank you Allergan for your continued support of AOP and IJCAHPO's Annual CE meeting! Watch for more information about this year's event and visit: [www.allergantechalliance.com](http://www.allergantechalliance.com)**

***We want to make EyeLights a valuable resource to you. We appreciate your feedback on what you want to know more about and to make the next one more valuable to you and the profession. Please email us: [jcahpo@jcahpo.org](mailto:jcahpo@jcahpo.org).***

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