



## IJCAHPO ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

### 1. Governance Initiatives

- Elected and installed new Directors for IJCAHPO Board of Directors for 2020-21:
  - Two Directors-at-Large: Barbara Harris, PA, MBA, COT, OSC; and Kent Rose, COMT
- Welcomed new Councilors – Regular and Affiliate:
  - Carla Blackburn, COMT, CDOS, ROUB – COTP
  - Teresa Chen, MD – AOS
  - Joann Kang, MD – ECLA
  - Edward Lim, MD – ASRS
  - Gary Legault, MD, MAJ (P), MC – SMO
  - Vasudha Panday, MD – ASCRS
  - Omondi Nyong'o, MD – AOC
  - Holly Cheshier, CRA, COMT, OCT-C – OPS
  - Maria Pryde, MSc, COMT, OC(C) - TCOS
  - Veronica Plessinger, COT - ATPO
- Awarded the 2020 Statesmanship Award to Raymond Stein, MD, FRCSC.

### 2. Major Initiatives for the Year

- Transitioned all 2020-2021 on-site continuing education programs to a virtual platform.
- Partnered with the Ophthalmic Outpatient Surgery Society to develop new education and certificate of completion for surgical processors and surgical assistants.
- Published first International AOP Salary & Benefits Study with over 7,000 respondents from 32 countries.\*
- Launched first Certificate of Completion for Visual Fields.

### 3. Governmental and Public Affairs Initiatives

- Conducted 8 free webinars on AI for Technicians, Eye Trauma, AMD Patient Management, Women's Eye Health, and Dry AMD from the Patient's Perspective.
- Promoted AAO's EyeSmart monthly campaigns to certificants.
- Worked with the Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology to amend legislative language that would have adversely affected IJCAHPO certified surgical assistants/technicians.
- IJCAHPO joined the New York State Ophthalmological Society in support of amended language to the eye drop instillation bill that previously passed in the legislature.
- Secured sponsors and grants for ACE, Regional CE Programs, and educational programs.

### 4. Certification Initiatives

- Certified a total number of certificants – 33,909 worldwide.
- Delivering COT Skill and COMT Performance examinations via Zoom.
- Launched an online Certification and Recertification application process.
- Developed and delivered new COA, COT and COMT Study Guides and Quick Study Cards
- Transitioning from professional test centers to an online proctored examination environment
- Initiated the Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting Job Task Analysis
- New Certifications:
  - Certified Refractionist (CR)
  - National Registered Contact Lens Fitter (NRCLF)
  - National Registered Dispensing Optician (NRDO)
- Launched the following Certificates of Completion:
  - Ophthalmic Surgical Processor (OSP)
  - Visual Fields



## 5. Education & E-Learning Initiatives

- IJCAHPO hosted its first Virtual Broadcast and On-Demand *48<sup>th</sup> Annual Continuing Education Program* on November 7, 14 and 15, with on-demand open until December 30, 2020.
  - Gary N. Holland, MD, Professor, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA presented the Harold A. Stein, MD, Lecture on *COVID-19 and Other Emerging Infectious Diseases*.
- Presented Capstone Lecture Series: Innovations in Ophthalmology by leading ophthalmologists.
- Partnered with AAOE on offering a Coding Camp program.
- Conducted all Continuing Education Programs as virtual programs in 2020-2021.
- Conducted monthly CE Webinars, and online courses for the *entire eye care team*.
- Conducted Certification Examination Prep Courses online for the COA, the COT, and COMT.

## 6. Foundation Initiatives

- Awarded 120 Training Program Scholarships for more than \$10,000 to ophthalmic technicians' academic education and five orthoptists' scholarships totaling \$1,100.
- Awarded 7 certification and continuing education grants for more than \$1,800.
- Awarded 28 scholarships for the 2020 ACE Program to AOP adversely and economically impacted.
- Harold A. Stein Prize for Best Scientific Paper had no award recipients.
- Awarded the 2020 Virginia S. Boyce Humanitarian award to Michelle P. Herrin, COMT, orthoptist.

## 7. International Initiatives

- IJCAHPO and the Singapore National Eye Center are partnering on AOP training in SE Asia.
- Worked with AOP training programs in Nigeria, Central Africa, Fiji on accreditation.
- Certified 42 international AOP candidates.

## 8. Career Advancement Initiatives

- \*Published first International AOP Salary & Benefits Study with over 7,000 respondents.
- Launched redesigned Discover Eye Careers website.
- Launched new Career Center with ophthalmic technician job board.
- Presented 4<sup>th</sup> year at virtual HOSA - Health Occupations Students of America and Chapter meetings.
- Expand awareness of the ophthalmic assisting profession to increase the potential workforce.