

EyeLights eNews



August 2022

In This Issue

Find how to earn Free CE Credits in this newsletter!

- [President's Message](#)
- [50th Anniversary ACE Program](#)
- [IJCAHPO Updates](#): Accreditation
- [Certification](#): Non-Certified Status, Job Task Analysis
- [Education Updates and Offerings](#): New Hire Courses, Calendar of Upcoming Events and Webinars
- [Career Center](#)
- [JCAHPO Foundation](#): New Vice President-Elected and IJCAHPO Scholarships

President's Message



**James C. Tsai, MD,
MBA, FACS**

IJCAHPO President

President - New York Eye and Ear

Infirmary of Mount Sinai

Delafield-Rodgers Professor and Chair

Department of Ophthalmology

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Dear IJCAHPO Certificants,

2019-2020 was a Landmark year in IJCAHPO's history commemorating its 50th Anniversary of incorporation and creation. Now, IJCAHPO is embarking on its 50th Anniversary Annual Continuing Education (ACE) Program. To meet our future patient care challenges, **Michael Chiang, MD**, NEI Director, will speak to us on how to prepare for them with, "***How the Science, Technology and Art of Ophthalmic Practice are Evolving: Perspectives from the National Eye Institute.***"

This year's On-Site or Virtual On-Demand formats are an opportunity for allied ophthalmic personnel to attend the most important, innovative, and quality CE program of

the year! Whether you are just beginning your ophthalmic career or are an experienced professional seeking to enhance your competencies, you will receive IJCAHPO's highest caliber education and training from the finest ophthalmic faculty!

With registration fees that are 20% less than in 2019, IJCAHPO takes you into the future of our profession with advanced, leading-edge ophthalmic education! Don't miss IJCAHPO's 50th Anniversary event of the year!

Sincerely,

James C. Tsai, MD, MBA, FACS
President

50th ACE Program

Join us in Chicago or Virtually at ACE 2022 - IJCAHPO's 50th Anniversary CE Program! This year IJCAHPO continues its tradition of offering high-quality education with our new, relevant, and practical ophthalmic information and technologies. Expand your career, your learning, and your networks to become a leading Ophthalmic Technician for the future!

- On-Site ACE Program—(September 30–October 2)
- Virtual On-Demand Program—(October 3–31) *No Quizzes!*



On-Site ACE Program – (September 30-October 2)

- **Harold A. Stein, MD Lecture** presented by **Michael Chiang, MD**, NEI Director, on *How the Science, Technology and Art of Ophthalmic Practice are Evolving: Perspectives from the National Eye Institute*
- **86 courses with 42 new topics** and faculty to ensure your continued learning
- **7 Masters, 6 Advanced and 31 Intermediate courses** with CE credits for the experienced professional seeking advanced, leading-edge ophthalmic topics
- **Capstone Lectures Live! Innovations in Ophthalmology** - Six world-renowned faculty speaking on cutting-edge topics in ophthalmology

- **7 Subspecialty Sessions** featuring in-depth learning in 7 sessions with star speakers
- **Learning Labs** offering hands-on experience with premier ophthalmic equipment
- **Certification Exam Prep Courses*** to validate your examination content area knowledge: COA, COT, COMT, and new ROUB and CDOS!
- **Allergan TechAlliance Event and Reception**
- **Virtual Exhibit Hall**

**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.*

Virtual On-Demand Program (October 3-31) - No Quizzes!

- **Harold A. Stein, MD Lecture** presented by **Michael Chiang, MD**, NEI Director, on *How the Science, Technology and Art of Ophthalmic Practice are Evolving: Perspectives from the National Eye Institute*
- **Over 50 online courses and 2 Subspecialty Sessions** with CE credits on key ophthalmic topics to support your lifelong learning
- **Select as many ACE courses and CE credits as you like** and watch them at your convenience

Register for ACE!

IJCAHPO Updates



- **American Council on Education (ACE) Awards IJCAHPO Accreditation**
- **NCCA Awards IJCAHPO Reaccreditation**
- **Oregon Surgical Technology Legislation**
- **OMIC—Risk Management Update**

American Council on Education (ACE) Awards IJCAHPO Accreditation

IJCAHPO was recently awarded reaccreditation of its three Core Certifications: COA, COT, and COMT. The content, scope, and rigor of the examinations align with the semester hours in the lower and upper divisions of academic credit. ACE noted that the “exams are well constructed and effectively test the knowledge in the important clinical areas” for the three levels of certification. Certificants interested in returning to a degree academic program can use their certification to supplement their program’s academic credits with the following semester hours:

- COA exam aligns with a total of 12 semester hours in the lower division
- COT exam aligns with a total of 18 semester hours in the lower division
- COMT exam aligns with a total of 15 semester hours in the upper division

Please contact jcahpo@jcahpo.org with any questions.

NCCA Awards IJCAHPO Reaccreditation

IJCAHPO was recently awarded reaccreditation of the COA and OSA certifications.

IJCAHPO was one of the earliest accredited certification programs in the United States.

Oregon Surgical Technology Legislation

IJCAHPO and the Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology were successful in getting language included in the Oregon legislation that supports the safe and efficient performance of ophthalmic surgery by technically trained Ophthalmic Surgical Assistants (OSA) employed in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. In 2021, IJCAHPO became aware of legislation introduced in Oregon and worked to amend it so that it included subspecialties such as IJCAHPO certified OSA; however, the legislative session ended prior to our proposed amendment being voted on and the legislation failed to advance. The same legislation was reintroduced in the 2022 session as HB 4106, so we continued working to have our proposed language included. The legislation passed the Oregon House and Senate. The Governor signed it into law in late March and it will take effect on January 1, 2023. IJCAHPO was invited by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to serve on its HB 4106 Surgical Technologist Education Requirements Rule Advisory Committee (RAC).

OMIC – Risk Management Update

OMIC recently released its newest *Digest* which features giant cell arteritis. OMIC offers key insights to help your practice manage risk, promote patient safety, and reduce the potential for claims. The publication includes the following features:

- Highlights recent claims data, explores new case studies, and offers risk management recommendations
- Gives you links to practical GCA risk management tools:
- **Updated GCA Checklist**
- **New GCA Patient Information Sheet with Consent to/Refusal of Treatment**
- Includes news from OMIC's Chair, Dan Briceland, MD
- Provides updated information about liability and coverage issues related to patient falls

To read up on this eye condition and treatment, click on this highlighted link, [Giant Cell Arteritis: Delayed diagnosis and treatment](#).

Certification



- **Non-Certified Status Timeline Change**
- **Job Task Analysis Begins in August**

Non-Certified Status Timeline Change

Revoked status timeline changes went into effect on August 1, 2022. Previously, the individual placed on non-certified status had 12 months to apply for recertification before their credential becomes revoked. The time for renewal has been reduced to six (6) months starting August 1. Individuals who do not apply for recertification or miss the recertification deadline will be placed on non-certified status and are not permitted to present themselves as IJCAHPO certificants or utilize the credential after their name. The number of continuing education credits required to recertify does not increase, but a late fee will be assessed. Individuals will not receive a new recertification date if they recertify within the 6-month non-certified period.

Job Task Analysis Begins in August

Earn up to 3 Free CE credits! You are invited to give us your input for the 2022 Job Task Analysis (JTA). This survey is a very important first research step into understanding the education and training needed by ophthalmic technicians. Your feedback will help us

continue to develop IJCAHPO's certification examinations and curriculum to fit your needs. Watch your email inbox! You will receive the survey in late August 2022.

IJCAHPO conducts this research every five years which is based on the job tasks performed by IJCAHPO certified job incumbents. We will be conducting the JTA for the three Core Certifications (COA, COT, COMT) and the Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting Certification (OSA). Survey respondents will receive 3 CE credits for completing and submitting the Core Certifications (COA, COT, COMT) and 1 CE credit for the OSA survey. ***Don't miss this great opportunity to get "free" CE credits for telling us what you do daily in your job!***

Education



- **Get a Fast Start Training Your New Employees**
- **CE Virtual On-Demand Events (VOD) in Fall 2022**
- **View and Register for Upcoming Webinars and Events**
 - August 23, 2022: [Anterior Segment Trauma](#) - Cristos Infantides, MD, MBA
 - September 6, 2022: [Scrub-a-Dub-Dub Aseptic Techniques for the Ophthalmic Tech](#) - Jennifer Boush, COT, OSA
- **Refinements Available in Print and Online**
- **A Tremendous Way to Save Money for All Clinic Practices:** Share this secret with your Clinic Manager!

Get a Fast Start Training Your New Employees

A promotional banner for EyeCareCE. It features the EyeCareCE logo on the left, followed by the text "10 FOR ONLY \$79" in large, bold, white letters. To the right of this, it says "SALE PRICE THRU AUGUST" in smaller white letters. Below the price, the text "NEW HIRE OPHTHALMIC ASSISTING 101 COURSES" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. On the right side of the banner, there is a stylized illustration of a human eye with a red and blue glow.

Train your new employees with the "Ophthalmic Assisting 101 Courses" which include 10 essential topics for just \$79 (normally \$99) during the month of August. These ten online courses are fundamental topics that new employees need in order to understand ophthalmology and patient care. This package includes the following basic topics with a quiz (no CE credits) and is available for use for six months. Topics include:

1. Ocular Anatomy
2. Basic Introduction to the Eye and Eye Disease
3. History Signs and Symptoms
4. History Taking for the Beginner Ophthalmic Assistant
5. Triage of the Ophthalmology Patient
6. Medical Terminology 101
7. Visual Acuity

8. Telephone Screening: Liability Issues and Guidelines
9. Basic Ophthalmic Pharmacology
10. Human Microbiology

Plus, the video *Dilating Drops: Patient Safety and Liability Risks*.

CE Virtual On Demand Events (VOD) in Fall 2022

Join us from November 18 to December 5 for IJCAHPO's Fall Virtual Program. Watch the web site for the program and registration. Coming Soon!

Upcoming Webinars:

IJCAHPO hosts weekly webinars presented by leading industry professionals. This webinar series is a convenient distance learning option that provides a great way to gain valuable knowledge and skills while earning CE credits.

Webinar Schedule

August 23: [Anterior Segment Trauma](#) - Cristos Ifantides, MD, MBA

September 6: [Scrub-a-Dub-Dub Aseptic Techniques for the Ophthalmic Tech](#) - Jennifer Boush, COT, OSA

September 13: [Degenerative Diseases of the Cornea and Conjunctiva](#) - Joann Kang, MD

September 20: [Overview of Scleral Lenses](#) - Corina Busuioc, OD

September 27: [Ocular Prosthetics](#) - Kurt Jahrling, BCO, BADO, FASO

October 4: [Uveitis Update](#) - Wendy Smith, MD

October 11: [Current Concepts in Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Diabetic Retinopathy](#) - Sunir Garg, MD, FACS

October 25: [World Blindness](#) - Geoffrey Tabin, MD

IMPORTANT: The webinar series will continue through ACE this year, so you have the opportunity to select critical topics of your interest on a one-to-one basis.

Visit store.jcahpo.org for details.

Refinements Available in Print and Online

Offering you an alternative and a flexible distance learning option, Refinement modules are available online or in Print, which gives you options to earn 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 Continuing Education Credit to those who successfully complete the module quiz.*

Complete library of Refinement Modules available [here](#).

A Tremendous Way to Save Money for All Clinical Practices: Share this secret with your Clinic Manager!

IJCAHPO's Clinic CE Subscription is 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 180+ IJCAHPO online courses and CE credits. Visit 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.

- **IJCAHPO Career Center**

IJCAHPO Career Center

Are you seeking a new career opportunity but not sure how to find the right employer and right position? Don't miss the perfect job opportunity with ophthalmologists and practice managers who value you and your certification! New job opportunities are posted regularly 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.

JCAHPO Foundation



- **Foundation Board Election**
- **Donor Spotlight**
- **IJCAHPO Staff Campaign—Scholarship to ACE**

Foundation Board Election

The election of the Foundation Board was held in July. Michelle Willis, COMT, was elected Vice President. She previously held the position of Treasurer. In this role, her years of experience and expertise working as an ophthalmic technician will continue to help the Foundation understand the needs of allied ophthalmic personnel (AOP) and how best to support them.

Board Members are:

President - William Ehlers, MD
Co-Chair - Peter Donshik, MD
Co-Chair - Michelle Pett Herrin, COMT
Vice President - Michelle Willis, COMT
Treasurer - Mandi Conway, MD
Director - Neil Choplin, MD
Public Advisor - Jeannine Bayard, MPH
Director - Susan Busch, COMT, (F)ATPO



Donor Spotlight

We wish to say a special thank you to **Yadira Hanson, COMT**, who gave a generous donation in July. The Foundation is thankful to everyone who donates any amount to support its mission but is especially touched when it comes from an AOP who does so knowing their gift will be used to support the career and advancement of others in the field.

Hanson stated, *"Making a gift to the JCAHPO Foundation was important to me. When I was studying to become an ophthalmic medical technician in college, I received a scholarship*

from the Foundation to support me in taking the COMT exam." She successfully completed her goal in 2020. "I gave back because more people need to be supported," she added.

Thank you, Yadira!

IJCAHPO Staff Campaign—Scholarship to ACE

IJCAHPO's staff have historically made contributions to the Foundation with 100% participation. This year a goal was set not only to have 100% participation but also to raise enough funds to offer two scholarships to ACE 2022. The staff's generous contributions exceeded the goal and provided the opportunity to offer three scholarships.

Bill Ehlers, MD, Foundation President, said this upon hearing of the success of the staff's campaign: *"Wow, that is fantastic. What a tribute to the staff and to IJCAHPO as an organization! I am proud to be associated with everyone involved! I salute you all!"*

If you would like an opportunity to receive one of these three scholarships, email your top eight reasons why IJCAHPO is important to you to jcahpo@jcahpo.org by Friday, September 9th. The scholarships will be awarded the week of September 12th.

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



International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

2025 Woodlane Drive · St. Paul, Minnesota 55125-2998

Phone: 651-731-2944 · Toll Free: 800-284-3937 · Fax: 651-731-0410 · www.jcahpo.org

Copyright © 2022 IJCAHPO. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).