

EyeLights eNews

December 2018



We wish you a happy holiday season!

Please note that our office will be closed December 22, 2018-January 1, 2019.



President's Message

Special Announcements

- Annual Continuing Education credits now posted to your transcript.
- Tyree Carr, MD, passed away on December 7.
- New certifications credentials and examinations offered!

This holiday season I'd like to thank you for your dedication to providing excellence in eye care to our patients. Your work makes a difference every day in the lives of our patients. And, your IJCAHPO certification demonstrates your commitment to delivering the highest-quality patient care. From Canada, South America, Africa, the Middle East, to Asia, I've seen the vital role that qualified AOP play in expanding much-needed access to eye health care services globally.

Important Announcement: Annual CE Program CE credits are now posted to your account if you attended the program in Chicago! Our 46th Annual Continuing Education (ACE) program had over 2,000 AOP attendees during the three days.

Also, we have exciting news to announce. We are launching several new

certifications that recognize and support the competencies that you have. New certifications include the Registered Contact Lens Fitter (RCLF®), Certified Contact Lens Practitioner (CCLP®), and Certified Refractionist (CR®). Details are provided in this newsletter.

IJCAHPO recently fine-tuned its mission to better reflect our organization's overall goal of **education and certification** of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) in their patient care for the prevention of visual impairment and blindness. As we look ahead to 2019, IJCAHPO will be launching several new educational resources – such as new Pocket Guides, updated Study Guides, new and updated *Refinements*, and of course, new monthly webinars and e-learning courses on the latest topics in ophthalmology. Save the date for the 47th Annual Continuing Education Program in San Francisco, October 11-13, 2019, where we will bring you the latest education and training on new medical technologies, treatments, and surgical procedures. You'll have the opportunity to learn from highly trained experts and leaders in the field of ophthalmology. We look forward to seeing you there.

It is with sadness that I bring you news that our Past President Tyree Carr, MD, passed away on December 7. He will be greatly missed – yet his legacy lives on with a generous gift he gave to JCAHPO's Education and Research Foundation to fund education and certification grants for our certificants! Please watch for application information (See the link to the Foundation Donation page below). As you "wrap up the year" consider making a gift to the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation – to Dr. Carr's fund or another, by December 31. Your contribution supports the Foundation in its goals to help fund the education and certification of AOP.

Happy Holidays and New Year! As the 2018 year closes, we have time to reflect and give thanks for our family, friends, colleagues, and all the joys and sorrows that we have shared. *Thank You* to our dedicated volunteers who donate time and talent to support IJCAHPO's mission.

—William F. Astle, MD, FRCSC, Dipl. ABO, President

Tyree Carr, M.D., Passing and Legacy

For more than 20 years, Dr. Carr provided rich and robust leadership in IJCAHPO. He served in leadership positions as Treasurer (2004, 2005, 2006),

President Elect (2009 – 2010), President (2011 – 2012), and Past President (2013 – 2014). He also served on the Education and Finance & Audit Committees, and as Treasurer of the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation. In 2017, Dr. Carr was honored with IJCAHPO's highest award, the Council Statesmanship award, for his leadership and support of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel.

During his IJCAHPO Presidency, he was instrumental in the growth of IJCAHPO's certification program and expansion of its distance education initiatives. His strong support of certification and his championing of ophthalmic technicians to meet high quality standards resulted in a 37% certification growth to over 19,000 IJCAHPO certified ophthalmic personnel worldwide. He was deeply committed to lifelong learning and certification for his eye care team and ophthalmic technicians worldwide.

In 2017, Dr. Carr made a significant financial gift to the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation to support certification grants to Allied Ophthalmic Personnel. The first grant awards will be made in 2019.

His altruistic character was exceptional and unparalleled. His passion, consistent commitment, leadership, generosity, and charitable efforts were a rare combination of attributes. He demonstrated his unique and noble pledge to humankind through his service in healing those who cannot see, his vision to provide the tools to local physicians to carry on good work when he was no longer on site, and the sharing of his knowledge and skills by teaching the local medical professionals in developing countries. His personal outreach resulted in sustainability of local medical personnel with the knowledge and skills that he would leave behind. Dr. Carr's legacy in ophthalmology touched thousands of lives around the globe.

Foundation web site is: [JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation website](#)
Foundation donation form is: [JCAHPO Foundation Donation Form](#)

Education and E-Learning

ACE Highlights

Thank you to all the Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) and faculty who attended our 46th Annual Continuing Education (ACE) Program October 26-28,

in Chicago. We were pleased to welcome more than 2,000 registered participants to our enriching program.

Highlights included:

- **Harold A. Stein, MD, Keynote Lecture:** This year's speaker was Michael Chiang, MD, who presented an engaging lecture about "Information Technology and Big Data in Eye Care." Dr. Chiang spoke about advancements in information technology, how big data affects the practice of ophthalmology, and how it has the potential to improve quality, cost, and delivery of eye care.
- **Expanded Course Offerings:** This year, over 200 high-quality courses were offered, including 56 new courses.
- **Courses at all learning levels:** Participants had many options, including the Basic Skills Track, which provided new hires with the fundamentals needed to become a valuable member of any eye care practice; the Advanced and Master classes offered high-level instruction for the experienced eye care team member; Sub-Specialty Sessions featured in-depth knowledge presented by panels of experts on a variety of topics; and Learning Labs helped participants develop problem solving and critical thinking skills while gaining exposure to equipment and processes.
- **CE Credits:** 22,297 lines of credit were earned by participants and written to transcripts. (Participants can view their credit transcripts at <http://public.jcahpo.org>).

2019 Regional Events

We're coming to a city near you in 2019 – spend a day or two with us while staying local! Join us at a regional event. Our regional events offer a schedule of courses to help you remain current on the latest topics in ophthalmology while earning continuing education credits. Our courses will give you the skills and competitive edge needed to be a successful eye care team member. Make sure to register early as some regional events fill up quickly.

Regional Event Calendar

February 8: Kansas City, KS – KCSEE- ATPO

March 1: Salt Lake City, UT – In cooperation with UOS
March 9: Costa Mesa, CA
April 6: Rochester, MN – In cooperation with Mayo Clinic
May 3-6: San Diego, CA – In cooperation with ASCRS/ASOA
May 10: Vancouver, BC – In cooperation with BCSEPS and CSOMP
May 18: Dallas, TX – In cooperation with TMA
June 1: Kiawah Island, SC – In cooperation with MUSC
June 14: Quebec, Canada – In cooperation with COS/CSOMP
June 28-29: Hollywood, FL – In cooperation with FSO
July 26-27: Phoenix, AZ
September 7: Cleveland, OH
September 6-7: Asheville, NC – In cooperation with NCSEPS
September 21: Las Vegas, NV
TBD: Buffalo, NY – ATPO
October 11-13: San Francisco, CA – 47th ACE Program
November 2: New York, NY

Upcoming Webinars:

Three weeks each month, IJCAHPO hosts 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

Jan 8, 2019: Basic Fundus Photography
Jan 15, 2019: Fluorescein Angiography
Jan 22, 2019: Advanced Retinal Imaging Techniques
Feb 5, 2019: Imaging in Retinal Vascular Disease

Visit <http://store.ijcahpo.org/calendarschedule.aspx> for details.

Clinic CE Subscription – A Tremendous Value for All Clinical Practices

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 the practice the use of the clinic's coupon code to access 160+ IJCAHPO Group A credit online courses.

If you do not have a Clinic CE Subscription, we encourage you to subscribe so

that all staff at your practice location may take courses! Visit www.jcahpo.org/ClinicCE to learn more.

New and Updated Refinements Available in Print and Online

Do you need a flexible distance learning option? *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 that are authored and peer-reviewed by leading ophthalmologists and technicians. They are an excellent way to study an ophthalmology topic of interest in-depth or fill in the gaps of your knowledge about a specific subject. We have recently expanded our *Refinements* series to include *Visual Electrophysiology for the Ophthalmic Patient* and *Oculoplastics: Disorders of the Orbit and Eyelid*. Updated modules include *AIDS and the Ophthalmic Practice* and *Diplopia*. Visit <https://store.jcahpo.org> for the complete listing. Additional modules are coming soon.

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

Certification News

New Certifications in 2019

Recognition of your ophthalmic competencies is important to your career and patients. Now, you can expand your credentials in several new areas through IJCAHPO with two new certifications and a certificate of completion to be offered in 2019. Please look for announcements later in the year regarding the release of these examinations and certificate of completion.

Registered Contact Lens Fitter (RCLF®)

The RCLF examination is a basic contact lens fitting certificate that is also the first step in the eligibility pathway to obtain the Certified Contact Lens Practitioner (CCLP) designation. The open-book format examination will be available through EyeCareCE. Candidates will be awarded a certificate of completion upon successful completion.

Certified Contact Lens Practitioner (CCLP®)

The Certified Contact Lens Practitioner (CCLP) examination will be comprised of a 65-question multiple-choice examination and a simulated practical

examination consisting of 4 tasks. The examinations will be 1 hour in length and offered through Pearson VUE test centers.

Certified Refractionist (CR®)

The Certified Refractionist designation will recognize those individuals who meet the required eligibility pathways and have successfully passed the multiple-choice examination. The examination will be 2 hours in length, comprised of 160 questions and offered through Pearson VUE test centers.

NEW Core Criteria Handbook

We recently published our "[Core Criteria Handbook for Certification and Recertification](#)." The handbook focuses on the following IJCAHPO core credentials:

- Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA®)
- Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT®)
- Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist (COMT®)

This information includes eligibility requirements for each credential and outlines the body of information that individuals seeking allied ophthalmic certification are expected to know and demonstrate to earn certification. The handbook provides detailed information that outlines the entire certification process.

Questions? IJCAHPO's certification staff welcomes questions regarding the certification or recertification process. Please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

Study Guides: Coming in 2019

Look for updated Study Guides for our core certification examinations.

Career Development

AOP Week Celebrations

The **9th Annual Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) Week, November 5-10, 2018 was a success!** Numerous clinics submitted photos and participated in our online contests. It was great to see the many creative ways that AOP were recognized and celebrated.

AOP Week is a combined effort of the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO), the Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology, Inc. (ATPO), and the Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA) to recognize AOP and their contributions to eye care and help increase public awareness of ophthalmic career opportunities.

Foundation News

\$44,285 Awarded This Year!

JCAHPO's Education and Research Foundation was established in 1990 to help fund educational and certification needs within the ophthalmic medical assisting community. In the 2017/2018 fiscal year, the JCAHPO Education & Research Foundation awarded \$44,285 to support 182 program scholarships as well as certification and continuing education grants.

Below are some recent comments we've received from our recipients (shared with their permission).

"Receiving the scholarship has made it easier to kick-start my career and gave me a head start by relieving much of the financial burden."— J.C., Chicago, IL (10/5/18)

"As I have already received the scholarship, it will make a huge difference in encouraging me to continue working toward my COT." — K.K., Springfield, TN (9/17/18)

"This scholarship has made a difference for me during the school year because I no longer had to work three jobs to help pay for my school tuition. It has given me more free time/study time so I could focus more on school." — A.V., Morganton, NC (9/10/18)

Upcoming Scholarships/Grants Application Deadlines

Apply by April 30 if you are interested in the following opportunities:

- [American Glaucoma Society Certification Grant](#)
- [Barbara Cassin Scholarship](#)

- [Virginia S. Boyce Humanitarian Award](#)

We also encourage you to submit applications for the following:

- [Harold A. Stein, MD, FRCSC, Prize](#) (Accepted January 1 to July 31)
- [Continuing Education Grant](#) (Accepted January 1 to July 31)
- [ATPO Phil Weber CE Grant](#) (Accepted Jan 1 to July 31)

IJCAHPO News

IJCAHPO Statesmanship Awards

We recently honored Richard Cunningham, MD, and Kenneth Westfield, MD, with IJCAHPO's Statesmanship Award. The Statesmanship Award was established in 1975 and is awarded to those who have manifested leadership through their support, training, and use of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel, and whose career has demonstrated dedication to the finest ethics and ideals of the ophthalmology profession. The award is given to current or previous Councilor (Board) members as well as to those who have not served on the Council but have served the general AOP profession.



Councilor Statesmanship Award

Richard Cunningham, MD, received the Councilor Statesmanship Award. Dr. Cunningham was recognized for his many years of outstanding service and dedication to the education of ophthalmic medical personnel. Dr. Cunningham is a Professor Emeritus, in the Division of Ophthalmology at the Scott and White Clinic in the Texas A&M University College of Medicine. He was a JCAHPO Commissioner, representing the Association of University Professors in Ophthalmology from 1990-1992, a faculty member for JCAHPO Continuing Education Program for Ophthalmic Personnel (1989-1996), and Director of the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation from 1991-1997. He has also assisted with accreditation and served as a site visitor when needed.



Non-Councilor Statesmanship Award

Kenneth Westfield, MD, received the Non-Councilor Statesmanship Award. Dr. Westfield is Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Gift of Sight, which he founded to “realize his vision for a world where treatable yet debilitating eye conditions were addressed in the places of most need.” Since its inception, he has been able to help and heal thousands of people in his home community of Las Vegas and the world over who would otherwise not have received the necessary care. Dr. Westfield has traveled extensively to provide eye care services to those in need, as well as to pass on his knowledge to others who can carry on his work. He has performed or taught cataract surgery on every continent except Australia. He is also deeply committed to mission work in Haiti and volunteers his time to serve as Medical Director of the Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti, which aims to alleviate the hunger, illiteracy, and poor health conditions of the children in that region.

In 1980, he founded a private practice in Las Vegas, Westfield Eye Center, which has since grown to become the largest full-service ophthalmology center in Nevada. Among his many accomplishments, he served as the founding medical director of the Nevada Eye Bank; was the first to perform refractive surgery in Las Vegas (radial keratotomy); opened the first satellite eye care clinics to serve outlying rural Nevada; was the first surgeon to perform cataract surgery in a freestanding ambulatory surgery center; and was the first to successfully service a large managed care contract, making ophthalmic surgery in Las Vegas more affordable for plan participants. He also started the first ophthalmic assisting program in Nevada. [Read the Press Release](#)



Bill West Appointed Chief Strategic Officer/Chief Operations Officer

Bill West has been appointed IJCAHPO's Chief Strategic Officer/Chief Operations Officer. In this newly created position, West will focus on identifying new educational and certification opportunities to enhance the professional development of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP). West brings exceptional leadership capabilities with a background of 24 years in the assessment industry, having most recently served as Vice President of Professional Business Development for Pearson VUE, the global leader in computer-based testing. He oversaw new markets and business development, delivery of quality customer services and sales, and management of national and global assessment programs. West has been actively involved in associations across the computer-based testing industry, having served on the boards of directors for the Association of Test Publishers and the Certification Network Group, on multiple committees for the Institute of Credentialing Excellence, and as chair of the Innovations in Testing conference. [Read the Press Release](#)

Tech Corner

“This is our ophthalmic tech staff at Eye Consultants, P.C. We are a professional, knowledgeable, and friendly eye care team. Our office promotes education and growth to provide the best patient care. Our vision is to be the most respected and trusted office in the Omaha area and exceed the expectations of every patient.” Thank you to Renee Barr, COA, OSC, from Eye Consultants, P.C., in Omaha, NE, for submitting the photo and quote.



Back Row: (left to right): Renee Barr, COA, OSC, Alex Vaughn, Kyle Nuzum, Josh Murphy, Austin Leise, Jake Eastman

Middle Row: Lauren Dole, COA, OSC, Lydia Phillippe, Michele Loven, COA, Angie Cook

Front Row: Gerry Dela Cruz, Lew Madden, COA, Karissa Thacker, COA

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