



In This Issue:

“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

Season’s Greetings! I am honored to begin serving my two-year term as President of the IJCAHPO Board of Directors. I am looking forward to working with you to bring a closer relationship between you, our certificants, and IJCAHPO to better serve your needs in continuing education and maintenance of certification. We all share the common goal of providing the best care possible for our patients. By improving communications between you and IJCAHPO, we will move closer to this important goal. In 2020, we plan to make some changes in IJCAHPO to give you more opportunities to be involved and volunteer. More of this to follow.



Continuous learning is an important tool for medicine, quality patient care, and professional development. This is **IJCAHPO’s 50th Anniversary** and continuing education has been, and continues to be, one of our Mission’s cornerstones. At our 47th Annual CE Program in San Francisco, we honored four of our Founding Members and our Past Presidents for their vision, leadership and commitment to you, our technicians, in your important work that you do in ophthalmology by starting IJCAHPO’s Annual Continuing Education Program in September 1973.

Peter Evans, MD, one of our founders, Past President, and long time executive vice president, attended our gala celebration. He gave remarks regarding the founding of JCAHPO by 6 visionary ophthalmic societies and leaders and described the first gathering at the Palmer House on October 12, 1969. He highlighted the purpose of the organization and goals for improving patient care through the education and certification of AOP. We are thrilled to report the successes over the 50 years of what is now IJCAHPO and our many achievements in line with the vision brought forth by these ophthalmic leaders. We extend our eternal gratitude to Dr. Evans and his fellow founders for their foresight and hard work in forming our organization and guiding it through its infant years.



Peter Evans, MD



Drs. Maguire & Bennett



Drs. Tsai, Choplin, & Barnebey,
with Lynn Choplin



Workshop

At the ACE program, we featured two dedicated ophthalmologists and renowned researchers working towards the treatment and cure of certain forms of inheritable blindness. **Jean Bennett, MD, PhD, and Albert Maguire, MD**, of the University of Pennsylvania and recent Smithsonian Ingenuity award winners. They gave an inspiring talk on their genetic research on retinal gene therapy to cure a rare form of congenital blindness in children. This achievement only happens when committed and dedicated people remain true to a fundamental principal in their lives by striving to achieve continuous learning. IJCAHPO and our patients are the recipients of their gifts and commitment.

This year, make a resolution to participate in many of IJCAHPO's CE programs—webinars, publications, Regional CE Programs, or online education. Continuous learning is key to keeping current on important medical developments in disease and treatments.

I challenge you to be the **Best You Can Be** for yourself, your ophthalmologist, and your patients! I look forward to hearing from you, as you undertake this challenge so we can share your stories and achievements worldwide!

Neil Choplin, MD, President



Drs. W. Astle & Stark



Workshop



Lecture

IJCAHPO Updates

SECURITY ALERT! Nationally, identify theft happens to someone every 2 seconds (IdentityForce, 2018). Don't let your IJCAHPO ID Number be compromised!

You should **NEVER** give your IJCAHPO ID number to anyone, any organization, or association (national, local, industry) other than IJCAHPO and your employer (or future employer)! IJCAHPO has been alerted that other associations, businesses, and consultants are requesting you give them your IJCAHPO ID number when you register for a meeting or purchase something from them.

Your IJCAHPO personal ID number is the property of you and IJCAHPO. We never give your personal data to another association or company, and IJCAHPO does not allow any organization for any reason to use your IJCAHPO personal ID number or data. Employers may request your ID number to verify your certification status.

Harold A. Stein Scientific Paper Prize of \$2,000 Awarded to 3 Certificants

In 2000, Dr. Harold Stein, MD, established the Harold A. Stein M.D., Award for the Best Scientific Paper by AOP. This recognition is given to an AOP individual who demonstrates exemplary, original scientific research and authorship. This October at IJCAHPO's Annual CE Program in San Francisco, we awarded three of your fellow colleagues the prestigious Harold A. Stein Scientific Paper awards. Below, Peter Donshik, MD, Foundation Co-Chair, is pictured with the recipients of the cash awards:

First place: Xiaosong (Sonia) Zhu, COMT, Children's Hospital, Philadelphia, PA, *"Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) as an efficient, non-invasive tool for use in differential diagnosis of unexplained pediatric vision loss."*

Second place: Wanda Lynn Ottar Pfiefer, OC(C), COMT, CO, University of Iowa Hospitals, IA, *"Pediatric Electroretinograms: The Diagnostic usefulness of the Electronegative Electroretinogram in Children."*

Second place: Liam Redden, COA OSA, Halifax Eye Institute, Nova Scotia, *"Mechanisms of Dry Eye Disease: Current Understanding, Treatment and Future Directions."*

Watch for publication of these interesting papers in 2020. To apply, see the Foundation web site page at <https://www.jcahpo.org/foundation/scholarships-grants-and-awards-available/>



Xiaosong (Sonia) Zhu



Wanda Lynn Ottar Pfiefer



Liam Redden

Get Involved

Would you and your colleagues like to be more involved in IJCAHPO and with other colleagues 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, typically conducted during an after-work hours conference call or at a face-to-face meeting; and you will be asked to serve on your certification level and area of interest.

If you are interested, please send an email to volunteer@jcahpo.org with your name, address, certification and contact information—preferred phone number and email address. We will contact you about your interest in January/February with specific information.

Education

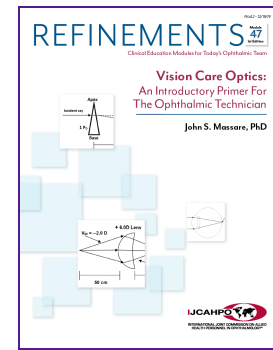
Continuous learning is easy, fun and low cost or free! In 2019, IJCAHPO gave away **6 free** CE credits through our continuing education programs—you only needed to register and successfully complete the CE courses' quizzes. In addition, IJCAHPO offers some CE at the lowest cost of any CE provider. For less than \$15 per course, you can be learning. Watch future Eblasts for complimentary CE courses from IJCAHPO!

New CEC Application coming in January. We are updating the *Criteria and Application for Continuing Education Providers*. The revised format and added information will better

guide providers through the process of obtaining CE credits for their educational offerings. Watch for our announcement to download your copy.

NEW! Refinements Available in January
Refinements Module 47 - **Vision Care Optics: An Introductory Primer for the Ophthalmic Technician**, by **John S. Massare, PhD**, will help you expand your ophthalmic knowledge while earning CE credits.

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 module quiz.



Complete library of Refinement Modules available >>>[HERE](#)<<<

Certification

A Credits = A + B Credits = Recertification

Recertification every three years has 3 equivalent pathways. You can recertify in one of two ways: 1) Take educational courses to acquire the required number of continuing education credits (CEC) as proof of continuous improvement; or 2) Retest by taking your certification-level examination again. Most certificants select taking educational courses to earn CE Credit and validate they are keeping current in ophthalmology.

Did you know that CECs to recertify may be **ALL A credits, or a combination of A + B credits?** You can use all “A” credits to recertify and these credits are readily available and easy to earn. CECs come in many shapes and sizes - from webinars, classes, approved journal articles, to physician-approved courses. However, there is a common myth held by many certificants that “B” credits are less valuable than “A” credit. This is **Fake News!**

“B” credits are designed to provide certificants with a second avenue or option to earn credits which may have equal value to an “A” credit. “B” credits may not be used entirely to recertify but may be used in combination with “A” credits towards your recertification. Each certification level has a combination “A” credits with a maximum number of “B” credits allowed: COA = A + 6 B credits; COT = A + 9 B credits; COMT = A + 18 B credits.

“B” credits are not earned in typical ways by classroom or online formats. “B” credits may be earned by writing a journal article, presenting a poster, attending physician AMA CME Category 1 course. Physician level courses for recertification are allowed on equivalency or ratio basis depending upon your level of certification (see Certification Criteria Handbook).

Recertification every three years can be easy and fun – and is important in your professional development. **BEST PRACTICE TIP:** Don’t wait until the 3rd year in your recertification process to earn all your CE credits – set credit goals annually and achieve them!

Career Development

Are you looking to move up the career ladder and go back to college to get a degree? IJCAHPO’s core certification examinations were approved for college credit equivalency by the American Council on Education (ACE CREDIT®). The ACE CREDIT recommendation service is applicable for certifications received between: March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2022.

ACE CREDIT evaluated and recommended college credit as follows: COA – 12 semester hours in the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category; COT – 18 semester

hours in the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category; COMT – 15 semester hours in the upper-division baccalaureate degree category. For more information: https://documents.jcahpo.org/documents/Certification/IJCAHPO_CollegeCreditInfo.pdf

Announcement – IJCAHPO and ATPO Separation

IJCAHPO and ATPO have been housed together since 1997, when ATPO established its headquarters with IJCAHPO. In August, ATPO announced it is moving its offices from IJCAHPO's Minnesota offices to Kentucky on January 1, 2020. See ATPO's website for more information.

New Resources: Education and Certification

Available at the IJCAHPO Resource Center: store.jcahpo.org

Clinic CE Subscription: An extensive collection of online courses for ophthalmic technicians—ONLY \$549/year for everyone at your location!

The graphic features a light green background with a large red ribbon bow in the top left corner. The text "give the Gift of education" is centered, with "Gift" in a large, elegant script font. Below this, a dark green oval contains the text "ONLY \$549.00 Annual Subscription". To the right, a red vertical band contains the IJCAHPO logo and a testimonial quote. The testimonial reads: "An outstanding resource with the largest library of online CE courses, simulations, publications and webinars to train our staff." attributed to Tracey S., Clinic Manager, James C. Bobrow, Inc. The IJCAHPO logo includes the text "IJCAHPO" and "INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION ON ALLIED HEALTH PERSONNEL IN OPHTHALMOLOGY".

IJCAHPO CE – Less than \$1.50 a day trains your entire staff!

- Unlimited access to more than 170 accredited online courses
- Presented by world-renowned faculty
- Stay current with new courses updated quarterly
- Earn CE credits – IJCAHPO, AOC, OPS, CA-BRN, NCLE
- Learn anytime anywhere with on-demand courses
- Upgrade available to access an additional 200 courses
- Track staff activity easily

Visit www.jcahpo.org/ClinicCE to learn more, call us at 1-800-284-3937 then prompt "6," or email us at subscriptions@jcahpo.org.

Receive a voucher for a free webinar, if your clinic signs up by December 31.

INTRODUCING: Scribe Pocket Guide



"An invaluable tool!"

Vernique



The Scribe Pocket Guide: A quick reference guide to be effective, efficient, and productive. The 86-page Pocket Guide has 11 key sections with a fold-out quick reference tools section for fast access to essential information for scribing and documentation. Plus the Write-On, Wipe-Off pages let you make notes and erase to keep your best and personal practical tips close at hand!

11 essential sections at your finger-tips, include:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- History Documentation
- Elements of the Comprehensive Eye Exam
- Common Diagnostic Tests
- Labs/Radiology
- Ocular Pharmacology
- Safety and Infection Control
- Prescribing
- Terminology/Abbreviations
- Common Coding Basics and Examples
- Quick Reference Tools

Order form online at: <https://jcahpo.co/pscribe>
Call IJCAHPO at 651-731-2944 or 800-284-3937

in 20/20
the future is clear.

Start the New Year
with a JCAT bundle
FOR ONLY \$120!

20/20 the future is clear.

Start the New Year off right by taking advantage of the coveted IJCAHPO JCAT bundle for a mere \$120. Your purchase will help you prepare for the COA exam and benefit IJCAHPO's nonprofit cause.

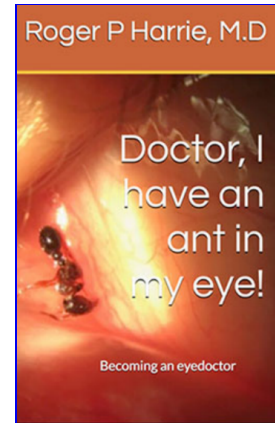
This bargain package includes:

- The Ophthalmic Assistant: A text for Allied and Associated Ophthalmic Personnel, 10th Edition
- JCAT 175-question quiz, paper based
- COA Study Guide
- \$50 off coupon to be used for initial COA examination

Act NOW to order at <https://jcahpo.co/2s6hWBb>

Looking for a Fun Read This Holiday Season?

Check out **Doctor, I Have an Ant in My Eye** by Roger Harrie, MD. This great **Downloadable PDF** is available in the IJCAHPO Resource Center for only \$2.99 >>>[HERE<<<](#). All proceeds go to the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation.



Personal Stories

Helen Cummins, COT

Our featured guest this quarter is Helen Cummins, COT, highlighting the generosity of her mentors in her career. Helen entered the ophthalmic assisting profession in 1979, and then began her life-long career as a Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) in 1982, followed by advancing herself as a Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT) in 1984. She gives a tremendous amount of credit to her mentors, James Demming, MD and his partner James C. Clower, MD, of Demming and Clower's practice. For 19 years, she was encouraged to learn and train in continuing her career path. They supported her ambitions and financially helped her out with the cost of training and certification. Helen stayed in the field of ophthalmology because of the support of her mentors. The interesting patients and her fascination for the anatomy of the eye was sparked by Suzanne Demming, MD, who introduced her to retinal fluorescein photography.



Photo credit: Mike Kataif

Helen shared her biggest tip for AOP that she thought was crucial in the field, "Educate yourself as much as possible." Helen believes the more you support the doctor with the history and knowledge of the patient, it will provide the doctor with the ability to anticipate the needs of the patient.

Helen gives credit for her success and love of the field to all the mentors she has had over the last 20 years, from Alma Sherrill, Office Manager to her fellow AOP's who encouraged her to learn more and explore. Helen is a promotor of eye care health and supporter of the high quality training that is required of AOP. She attributes great training, like Dry Eye courses she took, to her ability to help patients with treatment options. Every time an eye care team member reaches out and supports or encourages another eye care team member, the patient will benefit from the connection and knowledge being shared.

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

Tech Corner

AOP Week 2019 Photos/Stories

ALLIED OPHTHALMIC PERSONNEL WEEK



The Team from Schwartz Laser Eye Center in Scottsdale, AZ

Bridget Furniss, Refractive Advisor/Marketing, at Schwartz Laser Eye Center, kindly submitted the following photo and says, "from the moment you set foot into our office, you will be made to feel comfortable and at ease. We pride ourselves not only on our top-quality eye care services, but also on our warm and inviting office." Bridget continues, "being certified puts our patients more at ease because of the education and the training our staff has received."



Top Row: (left to right): Patricia J., COA; Nancy J.; Brittany K-M., COA; Vicki S., CST

Bottom Row: (left to right): Shelby O., COA; Katie O., COA; Tamara W.; Marcia N., COMT; Cindie H., COA

Calendar of Upcoming Professional Development Events

Save the Date!

May 15-19, 2020 in Boston, MA! Technicians & Nurses Program on Clinical, Surgical, and ASC Current.

ACE 2020–November 13-15, 2020.

The 48th Annual Continuing Education (ACE) Program will be held in Las Vegas, at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. Watch for announcements in early 2020!

Other Webinar and Regional Educational Events

2020 Regional Event Calendar

January 25: [Las Vegas, NV](#)

February 1: [Banff, AB, Canada](#)

February 28: [Salt Lake City, UT](#)—In cooperation with UOS

March 7: Costa Mesa, CA

March 28: Rochester, MN—In cooperation with Mayo Clinic

May 2: Fort Worth, TX—In cooperation with TMA

May 8: Vancouver, BC, Canada—In cooperation with BCSEPS and CSOMP

May 15-18: Boston, MA—In cooperation with ASCRS and ASOA

May 29-30: Williamsburg, VA—In conjunction with VSEPS

May 30: Kiawah Island, SC—In conjunction with MUSC

June 12-13: Orlando, FL—In cooperation with FSO

June 25-28: Vancouver, BC, Canada—In cooperation with COS and CSOMP

July 17-18: Phoenix, AZ

September 12: Cleveland, OH

September 18-19: Greensboro, NC—In cooperation with NCSEPS

October 24: New York, NY

November 13-15: Las Vegas, NV—48th ACE Program

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.

2020 Webinar Schedule

January 7: [Myths in Glaucoma Care: My Own Perspective by James Tsai, MD, MBA](#)

January 14: [Intraocular Lenses \(IOLS\): Current Platforms and Future Technologies by Vasudha Panday, MD](#)

January 21: [Eyelid and Orbital Trauma by Richard Allen, MD, PhD, FACS](#)

January 28: [The Science of Blue Light by Alan Burt, COPE, ABO \(Repeat\)](#)

February 4: [First Steps in the Right Direction by Michelle Kaminski, COT](#)

Visit store.jcahpo.org for details.

Available Grants and Scholarships

Harold A. Stein, MD, FRCSC* Prize for Best Scientific Paper

Allied Ophthalmic Personnel are invited to submit an original scientific paper on any ophthalmic topic of their choice (i.e., glaucoma, contact lenses, dry eye, animal eyes, cataracts, macular degeneration, etc.)

**Harold A. Stein, MD, FRCSC, was the president of JCAHPO in 1986 and 1987, and is the author of numerous publications, including the ever popular "Ophthalmic Assistant/A Text for Allied & Associated Ophthalmic Personnel" now in its 9th edition. To perpetuate the prize, Dr. Stein is donating to the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation all royalties*



from specific books which he has authored.

Papers accepted January 1 to July 31.

Continuing Education Grants

Grants are awarded as vouchers to be used towards IJCAHPO Continuing Education Program registration fees. Amounts range from \$50 to Full Registration and are valid for one year from the date the voucher is issued.

- Jennie B. Busch Scholarship Fund
- IJCAHPO Continuing Education Grant
- Phil H. Weber Memorial Scholarship Fund

Applications accepted January 1 to July 31.

You can stay up-to-date on all grant nomination and award activity at:

<https://www.jcahpo.org/foundation/scholarships-grants-and-awards-available/>

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.

International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

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