

EyeLights eNews



Remember to Renew Your Certification!

Certified Members—With all the year-end festivities and wrap-up, don't forget to renew your certification! Don't have enough credits? Don't let your certification lapse: check out all the opportunities to complete the credits you need. Online, Refinements, Webinars, and Virtual Symposiums!

IJCAHPO's Bookstore has many excellent publications and certification exam prep materials on sale through the holidays—[check it out!](#)

Congratulations to COAs and COTs for their 50 years in Ophthalmic Patient Care!

IJCAHPO celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding and its first Annual Continuing Education Program these past two years. At the close of our anniversary and the start of our next 50 years, we are taking this time to recognize our Certificant Classes who took the first IJCAHPO COA and COT written and oral examinations from 1968 to 1973. We had **[339 COAs](#)** successfully complete the COA examination to become certificants, and **[74 COT candidates](#)** successfully passed and were awarded the COT credential! Congratulations to all who paved the way for ophthalmic assistants, technicians, and medical technologists and set the future standards of ophthalmic professionalism!

We would also like to recognize AOP who **[successfully achieved and have maintained their certification credentials](#)** since passing their initial exams between 1974 and 1980. Congratulations!

December 2023

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President's Message



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

IJCAHPO Immediate Past 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

Season's Greetings, IJCAHPO Certificant Members!

I have been honored to serve as IJCAHPO's President these past two years. I am grateful for our work together on exciting initiatives and new developments to current programs that expand opportunities for your education and certification.

As a member, your certification is important and valuable to you, your employer, and your patients! During the year, IJCAHPO offers many benefits to support your career:

Continuous learning that is easy, fun, low cost, or FREE!

- The most comprehensive and affordable education and training courses with CE credit available for our certificant members as compared to other CE providers.

- 6 free CE credits available through: participating in webinars, completing the JTA survey, serving as faculty for IJCAHPO's CE education programs, volunteering for IJCAHPO specialty projects, and more!

***Framework for a comprehensive eye care team—
Your Ophthalmologist and practice value you as an
IJCAHPO Certificant Member for your knowledge,
skill, and services to your patients.***

- Four out of five ophthalmologists state that Certified AOP makes them more productive than non-certified AOP in 5 out of 10 practice productivity measures, and in 5 measures there were no differences.
- Certified AOP have more of the 14 desired personal attributes as compared to non-certified AOP.
- Certified AOP are paid more than non-certified AOP.

***International recognition of your professional
development through achieving certification.***

- IJCAHPO's certification is recognized worldwide with certified AOP working in 42 countries.
- You have joined a proud group of distinguished AOP around the globe who have demonstrated competencies, and their hospitals and ophthalmologists value their learning and achieving one or more certification credentials.

As you continue your learning and professional development, you are contributing to quality patient care and your practice's medical services. We support and challenge you to be the ***Best You Can Be!***

We look forward to hearing from you and your eye care team. Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours,

James C. Tsai, MD, MBA, FACS
IJCAHPO Immediate Past President 2021–2023



- **Michael W. Stewart, MD, Named IJCAHPO President**
- **Christine McDonald, COE, COA, Joins IJCAHPO's Staff**
- **OMIC Insureds**

Michael W. Stewart, MD, Named IJCAHPO President



IJCAHPO® announced that Michael W. Stewart, MD, was elected as President for the term of 2023–2025. Dr. Stewart is IJCAHPO's 27th President of the 54-year-old organization. As IJCAHPO's leader, Dr. Stewart will focus on achieving its mission "To promote global eye health and prevent blindness through training program accreditation, education and the certification of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel." He received his appointment in November at IJCAHPO's 51st Annual Meeting held in San Francisco, California.

"I am honored to step into IJCAHPO's leadership as President to support our Certified Ophthalmic Assistants, Technicians, and Medical Technologists. We have a strong and highly engaged Board of

Directors and certified membership who continue to focus on IJCAHPO's objectives to foster growth and development that supports our eye care team. We have two main goals: strengthening the professional development of our technicians throughout their careers and enhancing their knowledge, skills, and productivity to support our patients and ophthalmologists. I look forward to continuing this work and advancing our initiatives over my team," said Stewart. Dr. Stewart joined IJCAHPO in 2016, and has served as Secretary of Education, Treasurer, and President-Elect before becoming President.

Dr. Michael W. Stewart is Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated with honors in chemistry from Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and from the McGill University Faculty of Medicine in Montreal, Quebec. He completed an internship in internal medicine at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida, and an ophthalmology residency at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Stewart held vitreoretinal fellowships at Touro Infirmary in New Orleans, Louisiana, and at the University of California, Davis, after which he became a partner at Retina Associates in Jacksonville. Stewart joined the Mayo Clinic in 1999 and became Professor of Ophthalmology in 2014.

Dr. Stewart has been recognized with the Florida Society of Ophthalmology President's Award (2020, 2021), the American Society of Retina Specialists Honor Award (2016), America's Best Physicians (2016), America's Top Ophthalmologists (2013), Hiram Hunn Award from Harvard University School and Scholarships Committee, and American Academy of Ophthalmology Honor Award (2010). His research interests include diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal vein occlusions, and infectious retinitis, with particular emphasis on retinal pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and the mathematical modeling of ocular diseases and treatments. His recent professional memberships include the Icelandic Research Fund; Mayo Clinic Enterprise Ophthalmology Council, Mayo Group Practices; American Society of Retina Specialists; and American Society of Cataract and

Christine McDonald, COE, COA, Joins IJCAHPO's Staff



We are pleased to welcome Christine McDonald, COE, COA, ROUB, OSC, CTC, as the newest addition to IJCAHPO's senior team! Christine assumed the role of Director of Member Relations, overseeing and fostering strong relationships with our Certificant Members. She will be working in communications and marketing for the organization, training and consulting with practices, education, certification, and career development.

With an impressive background spanning over 35 years in ophthalmology and the medical profession, Christine brings a wealth of expertise and success to our organization. Her prior experience as Director of Billing and Operations, and Business Manager for prominent ophthalmology practices in St. Louis, MO, has honed her skills in practice management and ophthalmic assisting, making her a valuable asset in guiding our members through education and certification endeavors.

Christine's list of credentials is truly impressive. Having earned her COE credential from ASOA in 2014 and holding the title of Certified Ophthalmic Assistant since 1998, she is highly knowledgeable in our field. Furthermore, her expertise extends to being a Registered Ophthalmic Ultrasound Biometrist, Ophthalmic Scribe Certified, Corporate Trainer Certified, and Ophthalmic Coding Specialist.

Throughout her career, Christine has demonstrated a strong commitment to service and giving back to the community. Having served on IJCAHPO's Board of Directors, and as Secretary of Education and Director-At-Large, Christine played an instrumental role in shaping the future of ophthalmic education. Additionally, her involvement as ATPO President, AAOE and ASOA volunteer work, and Haiti Eye Clinic project contributions underscore her dedication to the advancement of the profession.

As a team lead, head trainer, and supervisor for eye care teams, Christine's leadership skills are well-established. We have no doubt that her expertise and passion for the ophthalmic profession will greatly benefit our certificant members and enrich our organization.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Christine as she takes on this important role at IJCAHPO. We are thrilled to have her on board. She looks forward to working with you as we grow our mission and as a voice for the technician profession!

OMIC Insureds

Whether you call them wrong events or never events, one thing is universal: you never want them to happen to you. In ophthalmology, WSPEs (wrong-site, wrong-procedure, wrong-patient errors) can lead to severe reactions to medications, additional surgery, decreased vision, and even blindness. Furthermore, WSPEs almost always lead to claims and require settlements to resolve.

Analysis of errors and near misses reveals how systems and protocols failed and allowed the event to happen; it also reveals how organizational culture may have contributed. Use

the findings of such analyses to improve safety protocols. For example, implantation of the wrong lens occurs more frequently than it should and is often the result of a last-minute change to the OR schedule. In the office, we continue to see errors with patient identification, leading to wrong-patient, wrong-procedure errors.

Assess whether the values and behaviors of the current culture comport with your desired goals and standards. A culture that values continuous learning and improvement, and honest communication, is more likely to result in staff who feel empowered to report an error, a near miss, or a potential weakness in the system. Periodically reviewing and improving your patient safety protocols will help decrease the likelihood of error.

OMIC has resources on preventing WSPEs on our website:

- <https://www.omic.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Ophthalmic-Surgery-Checklist.pdf>
- <https://www.omic.com/wrong-sitewrong-iol-aa/>
- <https://www.omic.com/time-out-before-intravitreal-injections-2/>
- <https://www.omic.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Digest-Vol-31-No-1-2021-.pdf>

If you have questions about this topic, contact OMIC's Risk Management Hotline for a confidential consultation at riskmanagement@omic.com or 800-562-6642 and press 4.

ACE 2023

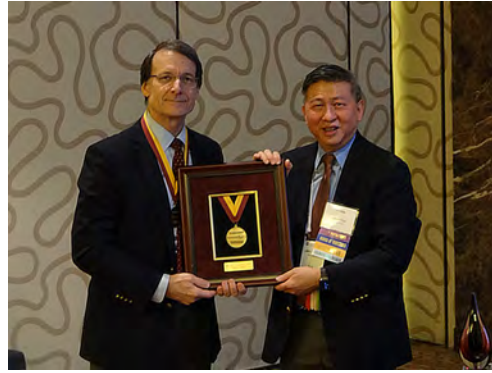


- **ACE 2023 San Francisco**

ACE 2023 San Francisco

In early November at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square a group of dedicated professionals assembled for three days of education, training, networking, and a little fun. IJCAHPO's 51st Annual Continuing Education program was met with enthusiasm and great success with over 40 new courses, Capstone Lectures, Exam Prep Sessions, Learning Labs, and Sub-Specialty Courses. There was something for everyone. We received many positive comments regarding our ACE event including, "This was my first ACE, and I plan on attending next year. I think you guys did a great job with organizing this event." and, "The speakers and topics were great!".

Enjoy some highlights from the meeting:



Thank you to all the companies who sponsored ACE 2023. The support you provide allows us to keep the costs low for our attendees and the information you share about what your company does allows allied ophthalmic personnel to be current on the services you offer and the innovations you are making in the ophthalmology field. This not only benefits their practices but also the patients they serve.

We hope to see you in Chicago, October 18–20, for ACE 2024!

Certification



- **Happy New Year! AMA and CMA Category I Credits Reinstated for COMT Recertification**
- **Do You Have Questions About Your Certification or Recertification Applications? Ask Our Certification Team**

Happy New Year! AMA and CMA Category I Credits Reinstated for COMT Recertification

You asked for it, and the Board heard you! We are bringing back recognition of AMA and CMA CME credits that can be used towards COMT recertification. Beginning on August 1, 2024, COMTs may use physician courses towards their recertification. The COMT equivalency is a 1:1 hour credit with 12 hours eligible to be applied to your COMT recertification.

IJCAHPO discontinued its Group A and B credits several years ago. However, we are reinstating the credits that COMTs can use to attend Grand Rounds or Physician's Continuing Medical Education (CME) in ophthalmology Category I courses approved by the AMA and CMA that meet IJCAHPO content areas. This applies only to those certified as COMTs and goes into effect on August 1, 2024. Courses taken on or before July 31, 2024, will not apply.

Have another certification question? See our [Certification FAQs](#) on our website.

Do You Have Questions About Your Certification or Recertification Applications? Ask Our Certification Team

You may have questions about the status of your certification and recertification application after sending it in—and “feeling like it takes forever to get it processed!” We get this question frequently. So, we have gone straight to the Certification Team to give you insights into the process and how to make your application get approved quickly!

Question: *IJCAHPO often hears questions and/or complaints about the amount of time it takes to process examination and recertification applications. Can you explain the process and why it takes the amount of time it does?*

Certification Team:

1. Applications—once received—take 4–6 weeks to process. We work to process the applications as quickly as possible and they are processed **in the order they are received** unless a rush fee is added to the application.
2. However, there are many steps that must be completed before final processing. The first step is to review and verify your application to confirm the submitted contact information; employer, demographic data, and sponsoring ophthalmologist information, including the ophthalmologist's state license information. This is then entered into our database. We often get applications that are not complete or have missing information which holds us up in processing.
3. After the payment is processed, your application is delivered to the Certification Department to be reviewed making sure all eligibility criteria have been met.

Question: *Can you offer advice to anyone who is recertifying that would make the process quicker?*

Certification Team: A recertification application will not be considered late if it is submitted or postmarked by the recertification date. However, processing time can take up to six weeks. If possible, we recommend that you submit the application at least six weeks prior to the recertification date. When sending in your application, please verify that all components of the application are completed.

- All signatures required are signed.
- Sponsoring ophthalmologist's information (including printed name, signature, and license number) is noted.
- Payment is included (including the recertification late fee if the application is submitted after the recertification date).
- All credits are IJCAHPO-approved credits. (It should state on your verification of CE forms that the course is approved for IJCAHPO credit.)
- If OSA-certified, a completed surgical log must be included.

Question: *Why was my application audited?*

Certification Team: If it is your first time recertifying or you are late recertifying, include the verification of credits as your application will be audited. There is also a random audit of 10% of all recertification applications, so you may proactively send in your forms to ensure quicker processing.

Question: *Why will the payment be processed, yet the certificant is still waiting for the renewal to process?*

Certification Team: Payment is processed at the beginning stages of receiving the application and credit cards are processed immediately to maintain security so the payment confirmation remains with the application as it moves through handling by each department and does not get lost.

Question: *Are there any plans to make the turnaround time faster?*

Certification Team: We are working on developing an online electronic format for submitting applications for the candidates to complete and the application will integrate directly with our database ensuring all the requirements are met before the application is submitted. This should greatly improve the processing time.

Question: *Is there any other information you wish to provide?*

Certification Team:

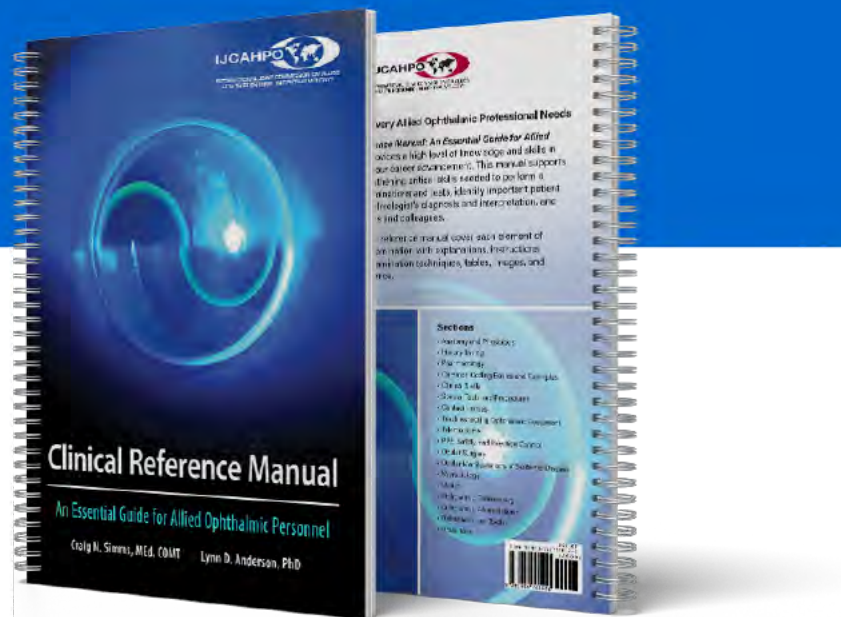
1. Please remember that all examination applications must meet the eligibility criteria requirements and that all your information is correctly completed. The requirements may be viewed at www.jcahpo.org under Certifications. After the application is approved, you will receive an email about scheduling.
2. Send in your application at least 6 weeks prior to when you desire or need us to have it completed.
3. If you do not receive an email to schedule within four weeks, please check your spam folder. If you still do not see it, feel free to check your account at www.jcahpo.org or give us a call at 800-284-3937.
4. If you need your application approved fast, you can always submit it with a RUSH fee of \$50 to move it through the system quickly.

NOW AVAILABLE!

Comprehensive & Concise Clinical Reference Manual

IJCAHPO has created a new Reference Guide for every ophthalmic technician. Ensure success with this powerful new tool authored by leading ophthalmic professionals in continuing education.

GET THE CLINICAL REFERENCE MANUAL



Education



- **ClinicCE Subscription Year-End Special**
- **IMiles Subscription—Get a head start on CE credits in the New Year!**
- **MILITARY Retirees—Join Today for a Promising New Career**
- **2024 Regional Events:** *January 5-15, 2024: [Winter AOP Symposium](#) | January 26, 2024: [Salt Lake City, UT](#) | January 26, 2024: [Kansas](#)*

Clinic CE Subscription New Year Sale

Clinic CE SUBSCRIPTION

Train and Keep Your Entire Eye Care Team Educated

- Over 200 Quality IJCAHPO CE Credit Online Courses
- Course Progress Tracking for Managers
- Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Courses for All Staff
- World-Renowned Faculty
- CE Credits Added Directly to IJCAHPO Transcripts
- Decrease Staff Turnover
- Improve Patient Satisfaction
- Increase Productivity

NEW COURSES ADDED OFTEN!

WWW.JCAHPO.ORG/CLINICCE

\$549 24/7, unlimited access for all staff at one location for a full year

IJCAHPO
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION ON ALLIED HEALTH PERSONNEL IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

Certificant Members—give your Practice Managers a holiday hint. Let them know that you and your colleagues would love to have access to IJCAHPO's more than 250 online courses for your lifelong learning and certification! Suggest this as a gift for the entire Eye Care Team! We are offering a 1-year subscription at a **Special Price of \$499** for a clinic's entire staff per clinic location.

You will learn from leading ophthalmologists and certified technicians who are the best in the field! Immerse yourself in 22 content categories for a well-rounded foundation in ophthalmology. You can access videos, text-based learning materials, interactive courses, skill-based simulations, certificates of completion, and CE Credits.

Don't miss this New Year's Special—open from Tuesday, December 19, 2023, through Monday, January 8, 2024. To purchase unlimited courses for the entire eye care team, go to IJCAHPO's store, store.jcahpo.org.

Click for a list of EyeCareCE courses included with the Clinic CE Subscription

IMiles Subscription—Get a head start on CE credits in the New Year!

IJCAHPO'S IMILES

CE Subscription for Certified Individuals

Have you heard about IMILES? IMILES is a continuing education subscription for individuals. Subscribers to IMILES receive:

- 6 CE credits of your choice from IJCAHPO's Clinic CE Subscription Courses
- An annual special report containing topics of interest and importance to technicians
- Unique benefits, promotions, and prizes only offered to subscribers

All for the low annual price of \$49. For more information, see the subscription details in EyeCare Marketplace: <https://store.jcahpo.org/subscription.aspx?ID=IMILES>

[Click for a list of EyeCareCE courses included with the IMiles Subscription](#)

MILITARY Retirees—Join Today for a Promising New Career!



IJCAHPO offers Military veterans and soon-to-be Military retirees and spouses the opportunity to transition from the Military to a wonderful career in Ophthalmic Assisting. Join thousands of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel as certified members! Military personnel and spouses can transition smoothly to becoming an ophthalmic assistant with less than one year of training and certification. Learn more about it in IJCAHPO's new Military Career Advancement brochure, coming soon!

2024 Regional Events



IJCAHPO hosts regional events presented by leading ophthalmic professionals. This series is a convenient, in-person learning option that provides a great way to gain valuable knowledge and network with peers while earning CE credits.

2024 Regional Event Schedule

- January 5–15, 2024—[Winter AOP Symposium](#) (Virtual)
- January 26, 2024—[Salt Lake City, UT](#) (in cooperation with UOS)
- January 26, 2024—[Kansas City, MO](#)
- February 3, 2024—[Banff, AB, Canada](#) (in cooperation with EPSAA)
- February 23–March 4, 2024—[Retina AOP Symposium](#)
- March 9, 2024—[Costa Mesa, CA](#)
- April 5–7, 2024—[Boston, MA](#) (in cooperation with ACRS and ASOA)
- April 27, 2024—[Rochester, MN](#)
- May 3–13, 2024—[Spring AOP Symposium](#) (Virtual)
- May 4, 2024—[Dallas, TX](#) (in cooperation with TMA)
- June 21–22, 2024—[Orlando, FL](#) (in cooperation with FSO)
- July 12–22, 2024—[Summer AOP Symposium](#) (Virtual)
- September 13–14, 2024—[Greensboro, NC](#) (in cooperation with NCEPS)
- October 18–20, 2024—[ACE Program—Chicago, IL](#) (On-Site and Virtual)

Visit store.jcahpo.org for details.

2024 Webinars

IJCAHPO hosts weekly webinars presented by leading industry professionals. This series is a convenient virtual learning option that provides a great way to gain valuable knowledge from the comfort of home while earning CE credits.

Webinar Schedule

- January 2, 2024—[Deadly Ptosis](#)
- February 6, 2024—[Ophthalmology Emergencies](#)
- March 12, 2024—DISASTER STRIKES! Prepare, Respond, Then Face the Music
- March 19, 2024—Navigating Difficult Patient Interactions

Visit store.jcahpo.org for details.

JCAHPO Foundation



- **Apply for Scholarships and Grants**
- **Leading Volunteer Recognized with 2023 Virginia Boyce Humanitarian Award**

Apply for Scholarships and Grants



Are you seeking financial assistance for your certification or continuing education? Apply for a scholarship or grant. The JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation is now accepting applications. View more information and apply [here](#).

All eligible candidates who applied for the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation's COVID or other hardship scholarship for ACE registration were awarded one for the fourth year in a row. Three staff-funded ACE Scholarships were also awarded for the second consecutive year. Thank you to all who donated to the Foundation to make these scholarships possible.

Leading Volunteer Recognized with 2023 Virginia Boyce Humanitarian Award

Given to one of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel's finest educators, mentors, dependable and steadfast volunteers, and friends, the Virginia S. Boyce Humanitarian Award was established to honor individuals, be they ophthalmic assistants, ophthalmic technicians, or ophthalmic medical technologists, who exemplify leadership and an unwavering commitment to volunteerism and public service.

This year, IJCAHPO and the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation recognized Margie Wilson, COMT, our 2023 recipient, posthumously with the Virginia S. Boyce Humanitarian Award. And, if you ever met Margie, you would know immediately why she deserves this honor!

Margie worked at the UC San Diego Shiley Eye Center as Chief Ophthalmic Technologist and Chief Clinical Supervisor. She dedicated herself to teaching, mentoring, and championing the education and certification of the eye care team for more than 30 years. Many of you knew her as our star cheerleader in teaching "Becoming a Super Tech: Maximizing Your Effort/Minimizing Your Stress" and other topics.

Margie Wilson, COMT, served 20 years as an instructor for IJCAHPO. Even though she retired in 2014, she continued her commitment to teaching through her ever-popular



course. Margie served tirelessly as a volunteer for us and other organizations with her husband, Rick. For 27 years, Margie volunteered with the Flying Samaritans, a non-profit organization that provides free health care for underserved populations in Baja California, Mexico. We were saddened by Margie's passing in June 2022. We were honored to present this award and to have known this fantastic, energetic volunteer who had a quick smile for everyone.

The award was named on behalf of Virginia Boyce, an extraordinary woman and the CEO of Prevent Blindness for 45 years. She embodied volunteerism! She was IJCAHPO's Public Advisor and then the Foundation's Chairman of the Board for 18 years. This special award emulates Virginia Boyce's mission of giving oneself and

volunteering for eye care services to those less fortunate. This award recognizes those exceptional technicians who go above and beyond their daily technical duties to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Career Center

- Find Your Dream Job on IJCAHPO's Career Center Job Board

Find Your Dream Job on IJCAHPO's Career Center Job Board

IJCAHPO
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION ON ALLIED
HEALTH PERSONNEL IN OPHTHALMOLOGY®

Career Center for Ophthalmic Personnel

Our clinic managers are looking for you! Sign up today for weekly job alerts, post your resume, and find your next career opportunity in Eyecare.

SIGN UP <https://careers.jcahpo.org/>

Find Jobs Now!

Are you seeking a new career opportunity but need help finding the right employer and position? Take advantage of 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 Job Board.

Remember to log in to your account regularly 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! Visit the [IJCAHPO Career Center](#) to find your dream job now.

Tech Corner



- **From Chance Encounter to Lifelong Passion: Diann's Journey in Ophthalmology**

From Chance Encounter to Lifelong Passion: Diann's Journey in Ophthalmology



Diann Wilson, BA, COA

Diann found her way into ophthalmology like many other AOP—by circumstance. At 19, Diann found herself working three jobs when a friend told her about an open position and asked if she would be interested in working for an ophthalmologist. Her immediate response was, "YES! What's an ophthalmologist?" Her biggest concern was whether it would allow her to quit working three jobs. It did.

Having been in ophthalmology for over 30 years, Diann has found the most rewarding aspects of the field to be part of the process of helping people get what they need and finds the ability to continue to learn and grow a huge reward. Given her time in ophthalmology, she states she still learns something new daily.

She said how much more she feels appreciated by her physician employer. "When I first started working, approaching the docs did not seem as easy as it does today. There seemed to be such a divide in the hierarchy between docs and staff. Over the last few years, I do not feel that as much, and there seems to be more of an appreciation for the tech input".

When asked why she chose to obtain certification, Diann responded, "When I started back in 1989, being certified was such an accomplishment and honor. I found that while I prepared for my certification test, I learned many valuable tools that have stayed with me throughout my career. They helped me to understand the 'whys' of what we do. Not just to go through the [patient] exam as a formality but to truly understand it. The practices I worked for really appreciated and respected the certified assistant or technician. I know that I worked hard for my certification, and I appreciate my peers who have worked diligently for theirs as well. I will gladly maintain it until I can no longer work".

"We had the opportunity to present a case study at one of the Annual CE Meetings. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Having attended several Annual Continuing Education Meetings, Diann said she finds

much value in attending these in-person meetings. "Every single time I have gone to an Annual CE Meeting, I have walked away with a wealth of new knowledge. I have learned new aspects of ophthalmology and picked up pearls to help make my exam process better and more efficient. I have found kinship with my peers. I have been challenged to step up my game and put into practice what I've learned. We had the opportunity to present a case study at one of the Annual CE Meetings. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It is one of the greatest blessings of my career. The Annual CE Meeting is always refreshing, and I return with a renewed purpose".

When asked what advice she would give those new to the field, Diann expressed, "Hopefully, you find your passion within ophthalmology. I fell in love with it over 30 years ago, and it has allowed me to meet and help so many wonderful docs and patients. I have worked with some of the most brilliant minds in medicine. I have made lifelong connections to some of my docs and co-workers. I have been able to travel to different office meetings, scrub in for surgery, become tech supervisor, clinical manager, research, and establish new offices. I have been blessed with so many opportunities".

She said, "I find that if you really enjoy this work, let your supervisor or docs know. Inform them that you want to learn more and do more. It can open doors. You can go far in this specialty by having an open mind to new experiences. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Don't be afraid to try! Sometimes, we have to be uncomfortable to grow."

We asked Diann to tell us about her career as a tech that allowed her to do something extraordinary, fun, challenging, amusing or made her proud. Here was her response:

"Back in the early 90s, our office had many satellite offices. We would go to several of them in a day. My doc would fly us in a helicopter to make sure we made it in time to see patients. He had his pilot's license. That was so exciting!"

Diann expressed joy about her role as an AOP. "I am so proud to be a part of this ophthalmology world. I continue to be excited to learn, grow, and continue my education. It has been a wonderful ride thus far!"

Coming Soon

- **Super Techs with Super Member Benefits!**
- **Did You Attend IJCAHPO's Annual Continuing Education Program in 2022 or 2023?**
- **CE Credits and Quiz Changes to Come!**
- **Certification Application Technology Changes**

Super Techs with Super Member Benefits!

Coming soon for our Super Techs: We are excited about new member benefits coming to you in the New Year!

IJCAHPO will launch several new member benefits in January to help improve our ophthalmic technician community's patient care. Watch your emails for our announcement in January on this new benefit, where you can interact with your colleagues, get questions answered, share information, and network with other ophthalmic professionals. Benefits to participate will be open to certified, non-certified, and new technicians in the field.

Did You Attend IJCAHPO's Annual Continuing Education Program in 2022 or 2023?

If you said YES, you will receive a Free CE Credit! IJCAHPO will publish its **50th Anniversary Publication** in January 2024, offering ACE Certificant Attendees an additional CE credit. Watch your email inbox!

Stay tuned as new programs are added to help support you.



CE Credits and Quizzes Changes to Come!

Third-party CE providers who conduct distance learning will see positive changes in the requirements for including quizzes in your courses. Watch for our announcement in January and in the new CE Credit Criteria and Application Handbook.

Certification Application Technology Changes

Coming soon—IJCAHPO's certification application will have a new look and a new technology that is user-friendly and easy to access. Watch for our announcement.

We want to make EyeLights a valuable resource for 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 at jcahpo@jcahpo.org.

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