

EyeLights eNews



July 2021

President's Message



Dear Certificants,

I am honored to have served as your President over the past two years. Since the start of my Presidency in 2019, we have faced new challenges and changes to our practices and lives. I am proud to say the ophthalmic world has shown great resilience and dedication to continue offering high-quality patient care, keeping abreast of new ophthalmic developments through education, and promoting global eye health and the prevention of blindness.

Just this month, the United Nations General Assembly announced its commitment to achieve their resolution, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals," to include promoting and providing "Vision for Everyone". This crucial movement will work to ensure that all residents globally, no matter age, gender, economic level, vision impairment, or disability, will have eye care by 2030. On behalf of IJCAHPO, we applaud the UN for their commitment to this critical step towards global health care, and we will strive to achieve this goal through our work to improve the skills of AOP!

On August 1, 2021, I will turn my leadership position over to IJCAHPO's new President, James C. Tsai, MD, MBA, FACS. I look forward to working with him to advance IJCAHPO's mission: "To promote global eye health and prevent blindness through training program accreditation, education and the certification of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel." Welcome Dr. Tsai!

Best wishes,
Neil Choplin, MD, President

In Memory of IJCAHPO Leaders

It is with great sorrow we share the passing of two past IJCAHPO leaders, Harold A. Stein, MD, FRCSC, and Colonel Thomas J. Tredici, MD.



Harold A. Stein, MD, FRCSC



Thomas Tredici, MD

Harold A. Stein, MD, FRCSC

Dr. Stein was instrumental in organizing the first Plenary (Keynote) Session held in San Francisco, CA, in 1985, and one of the early founding Commissioners of JCAHPO (now IJCAHPO). He served as IJCAHPO's President from 1986-1987, and served as a Commissioner from 1972-1992. In 1968, Dr. Stein wrote his first textbook, *The Ophthalmic Assistant*, which is in its 11th edition. Dr. Stein's book sales proceeds are generously donated to the Foundation to support technician education and certification.

Dr. Stein was a co-founder of The Bochner Eye Institute in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where he also resided with his wife, Anne. After many years of a prestigious career, Dr. Stein passed away in January 2021.

If you would like to remember Dr. Stein with a contribution to benefit IJCAHPO's programs for technicians, visit the JCAHPO Foundation's web site at: <https://www.jcahpo.org/foundation>.

Colonel Thomas J. Tredici, MD

Dr. Tredici was one of IJCAHPO's founding Commissioners, serving in 1969, and received the Statesmanship Award in 2000 for his involvement with JCAHPO and his years of committed service to allied ophthalmic health personnel. He established the first training program for ophthalmology technicians in the Department of Defense. Dr. Tredici passed away in April 2021.

In 1942, Tredici entered the Army Air Corps in the Aviation Cadet Program and was trained as a pilot, flying 18 combat missions. Tredici received his MD in 1952 from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, and interned at Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. He completed a residency in ophthalmology at the Eye and Ear Hospital, Pittsburgh, Penn., in 1957. In 1965, Tredici was named Chief of the Ophthalmology Branch at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine.

If you would like to remember Dr. Tredici with a contribution supporting scholarships for students of allied ophthalmic training programs, visit the JCAHPO Foundation's web site at: <https://www.jcahpo.org/foundation>.

IJCAHPO Updates



- **Tips for Your Job Search**
- **Call for Clinical Site Partners for Accredited Ophthalmic Training Programs**

- Volunteer Virtually with IJCAHPO

Tips for Your Job Search

Here's what your peers think are the most important factors (after compensation) to look for in their search for a new job:

1. Benefits
2. Career Advancement
3. Company Culture

Are these important to you? Ask your potential new employer about these during your interview. Visit the IJCAHPO [Career Center](#) to view available job opportunities.

Call for Clinical Site Partners for Accredited Ophthalmic Training Programs

Is your clinic interested in training future ophthalmic technicians? The International Council of Accreditation (ICA) has training programs that are searching for new clinical sites for student hands-on clinical training. Programs would like to hear from your practice! View the list of accredited training programs to find one in your area on [ICA's website](#) and contact the listed program director for more information. Questions? Contact ICA at ica@icaccreditation.org.

Volunteer Virtually with IJCAHPO

Would you 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 task force, presenting a course, to instructing a Learning Lab. IJCAHPO invites you to volunteer for Education, Certification, or Career Advancement, 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 future face-to-face meeting; and you will be asked to serve on a task force appropriate to your certification level and area of interest.

If you are interested, sign up to become a volunteer [here](#). We will contact you about your interest with more information.

**August is
Children's Eye
Health &
Safety Month**

Good vision and
healthy eyes are
important learning
tools for school.



Certification



- **Non-Certified Status Update**
- **Recertification Fee Increase Announcement**
- **Did You Know? IJCAHPO's Core Certification Examinations Are Approved for College Credit Equivalency**

Non-Certified Status Update

Thinking about waiting to recertify?

IJCAHPO certificants who do not apply for recertification or miss the recertification deadline, will be placed on non-certified status. Individuals who are placed on non-certified status are not permitted to present themselves as IJCAHPO certificants and they may not utilize the credential after their name on business cards, stationery, name badges, etc.

Effective August 1, 2021, IJCAHPO's recertification policy will change. From the time the individual is placed on non-certified status, they will have 6 months, rather than 12 months, to apply for recertification before their credential is placed in revoked status.

Within that 6-month time-period, 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 certification date if they recertify within the 6-month non-certified period. For example, if the individual is due to recertify in December 2021, but does not recertify until May 2022, the recertification cycle will remain December 2021 to December 2024. If the non-certified status continues longer than 6 months, the individual's certification will be considered revoked. Individuals in revoked status are required to contact the IJCAHPO Certification Department for reinstatement options. Retesting may be required.

Recertification Fee Increase Announcement

As a not-for-profit certification body, the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel (IJCAHPO) works to keep our costs as low as possible in all areas and minimize fees for our applicants. IJCAHPO, for the first time in over 20 years, will be increasing the recertification fee. Beginning August 1, 2021, the cost to recertify will change from \$115 to \$125. The fee increase is approximately \$3.33 per year for your 3-year recertification cycle.

Your commitment to becoming and staying certified through recertification is important to you, your patients and employer.

1. **Certification demonstrates commitment to your profession.** Obtaining IJCAHPO certification and recertifying shows your patients and your employer your commitment to your career in ophthalmology. Certification sets you apart as a leader.
2. **Certification enhances the overall image of the profession.** IJCAHPO certification programs seek to grow, promote, and develop certified Allied Ophthalmic Professionals who "stand out" as examples of excellence in the industry. Think of those you admire in ophthalmology and make note of the credentials they display, with pride.
3. **Certifications are portable.** IJCAHPO credentials travel with you anywhere and can open doors to employment opportunities you may not have even considered.
4. **Certification builds self-esteem.** IJCAHPO certifications create a performance standard for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel. You will see yourself as a certified professional who has control over their own professional destiny and find a deep sense of personal satisfaction, pride, and accomplishment.
5. **Certification establishes professional credentials.** Since it recognizes your individual accomplishments, certification stands above your résumé, serving as an impartial, third-party endorsement of your knowledge and expertise. When the public looks for individuals qualified to perform certain services, they seek individuals – like you – who have achieved certification.

6. **Certification improves career opportunities and advancement.** Certification gives you the “edge” when being considered for a promotion or other career opportunities. Certification clearly identifies you as a person who can adapt to changes in work, technology, business practices, and innovation.
7. **Certification helps you market your services.** Since IJCAHPO certification is a voluntary professional commitment to the industry, certification is a clear indicator of your willingness to invest in your own professional development. The process of maintaining your certification exposes you to the changing ophthalmic environment and provides you with the tools needed to anticipate and respond to those changes.
8. **Certification improves skills and knowledge.** Achieving certification highlights your individual competence by confirming proficiency, knowledge, and career commitment.
9. **Certification offers greater professional recognition from peers.** Hear that applause? It is all for you! As a certified ophthalmic professional, you can expect increased recognition from your patients, peers, and employer for taking that extra step in your professional development!

IJCAHPO is committed to providing you with superior customer service and products that support your certification and educational needs. We appreciate you and your commitment to ophthalmology.

Did You Know? IJCAHPO's Core Certification Examinations Are Approved for College Credit Equivalency

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

[View more information here.](#)



- **ACE 2021 Registration Opening Soon!**
- **View and Register for Upcoming Webinars and Events**
 - [IOLM700: Best Practices and What's New](#) – August 3, 2021
 - [Infectious Keratitis: Update on Diagnosis and Management](#) – August 10, 2021

ACE 2021 Registration Opening Soon!

Mark your calendars for ACE 2021! This year, ACE will be held live in-

person and virtually. Registration will open in early August.

On-Site in New Orleans at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside – November 12-14, 2021

- Over 32 New Courses
- Stein Lecture Featuring Dr. James Chodosh on *COVID-19 and the Eye: Alternative Facts*
- Capstone Lectures – Highlighting Key Innovations in Ophthalmology
- 5 Sub-Specialty Sessions
- Certification Exam Prep Courses at the COA, COT and COMT Levels

Virtual On-Demand – Access Courses October 28 - November 21, 2021

- Over 50 Courses – New and Returning Favorites
- Take Courses at Your Own Pace with No Quizzes

Additional Virtual Add-Ons

- View the live stream of the Capstone Lectures, Practice Management Sub-Specialty Session, and the Harold A. Stein, MD Lecture
- Learn new skills and perfect your technique with Demonstration Labs

[View the ACE Website for More Information.](#)

Upcoming Webinars and Events

Webinars

[IOLM700: Best Practices and What's New](#) – August 3, 2021

[Infectious Keratitis: Update on Diagnosis and Management](#) – August 10, 2021

[Advanced Diagnostics to Improve Toric Precision](#) – August 17, 2021

[Children's Eye Health & Safety: Keeping an Eye on the Patient](#) – August 24, 2021

[Best Practices for Visual Fields](#) – September 7, 2021

[Corneal Dystrophies](#) – September 21, 2021

Events--Save the Dates!

[Fall AOP Symposium](#) – September 11, 2021

[New York Continuing Education Program](#) – October 23, 2021

[ACE Program](#) – November 12-14, 2021

Certification Exam Prep Virtual Courses:

- Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) – September 2021
- Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT) – October 2021
- Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist (COMT) – November 2021

JCAHPO Foundation



- **Jennie B. Busch Education and Certification Scholarship**

Jennie B. Busch Education and Certification Scholarship

Are you seeking financial assistance with certification, recertification, or continuing education? The Jennie B. Busch Scholarships are awarded towards certification examination fees, program registration and travel costs, and for students in an accredited training program. [Complete and submit the easy application.](#)



- **Alfred and Theresa Phillips Make Generous Donation to IJCAHPO**

Alfred (Fred) and Theresa (Terri) Phillips graciously donated a Goldmann Perimeter and numerous ophthalmic books to IJCAHPO in February. Fred began his career as an Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) in 1961 and became certified in 1973. Terri raised their children and then entered the field in the late 1970's. Fred retired several years ago, and Terri retired last year. They enjoyed their careers as AOP and hoped that their donations help others increase their skills and knowledge in the ophthalmic field.



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.

NEW! TECH TALKS

Learn from fellow eye care technicians about Xiidra® (lifitegrast ophthalmic solution) 5%.

[VIEW TECH TALKS](#)

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