

TODAY IS

National Doctors' Day!

Thank you to our ophthalmologists for all you do!



EyeLights eNews



March 2022

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

IJCAHPO Certificants—Greetings,

As we reflect on the past two years, we see how COVID-19 has changed our work, patient needs, and home environments. We continue to face challenges on many fronts, and it is with dedication that we serve our patients in providing quality care. We send our thoughts and support to the Ukrainian ophthalmology professionals who are meeting extreme challenges in addition to COVID-19 in their country.

IJCAHPO's volunteers and leadership support certificants in your job in exclusive ways by providing you education, training, and services at a low cost to help you improve your patient care.

Did you know that this year IJCAHPO offered our certificants:

- Annual CE Keynote address—free CE credit to attendees.
- Four free Tuesday evening webinars.
- Two CE credit webinar specials at the price of four for \$25.
- IJCAHPO's Clinic CE Subscriptions cost your clinic less than \$1.50 per person for online CE credits.
- Economical CE credits are available, with some less than \$5.00 per CE credit.
- Complimentary International Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) Salary & Benefits Study for respondents, which was the largest Ophthalmic Assistant, Technician, and Medical Technologist Study ever conducted worldwide!
- Career planning and job search services free to certificants.
- Scholarships and grant funding (free money to support your continuing education and certification examination fees) available from JCAHPO's Education & Research Foundation—application required!

IJCAHPO is your one-stop location to certify/re-certify and earn CE credits!

IJCAHPO Updates



- IJCAHPO's New Website is Live!
- The JCAHPO Foundation Announces New Co-Chair, Michelle Pett Herrin, COMT, and Thanks Melvin Freeman, MD, for His Dedication
- OMIC Insureds Update on Fluorescein Angiography
- Volunteer with IJCAHPO

Visit Our New Website



The JCAHPO Foundation Announces New Co-Chair, Michelle Pett Herrin, COMT, and Thanks Melvin Freeman, MD, for His Dedication



Melvin I. Freeman, MD, FACS, is retiring as JCAHPO's Education and Research Foundation Co-Chair and leader. Words cannot adequately express our immense gratitude to Dr. Freeman for his 35 years of dedicated service to IJCAHPO, the Foundation, and the ophthalmic technician profession. He has been a leader and a significant contributor to our organization's achievements. We send our best wishes that he may enjoy more time with his family, and all the benefits of retirement, which he so richly deserves.

The Foundation is pleased to announce Michelle Pett Herrin, COMT, as the new Co-Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors. She is the first Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) to hold this position! Michelle has served as a Director on the Foundation's Board since 2012 and was the Vice President from 2015-2021. Congratulations, Michelle.



OMIC Update on Fluorescein Angiography

OMIC's Risk Management Hotline periodically receives calls from insureds regarding who may perform fluorescein angiography. State laws vary as to who may perform venipuncture and administer intravenous (IV) fluorescein dye. In some states, unlicensed personnel are allowed to perform venipuncture after completing specific training and certification, while other states allow only licensed personnel, such as registered nurses, to administer fluorescein.

Linda D. Harrison, PhD, Vice President, OMIC Risk Management, recommends that to determine the laws governing venipuncture and the administration of IV fluorescein, contact your state's medical society, medical board, and nursing board. If the law does not specify who may perform these tasks, seek the advice of your practice attorney. Make patient safety a priority. Train and certify staff members, and include these tasks in their job descriptions.

Read more about delegation of tasks, management of complications, and informed consent by clicking on OMIC's web link: [Fluorescein Angiography Recommendations and Consent](#). If you have questions, contact OMIC for confidential risk management advice at riskmanagement@omic.com or call us at 1-800-562-6642 and enter 4 for Risk Management.

Volunteer 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 face-to-face educational program. 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.

Certification



- **Accreditation Success**
- **Certification FAQ—Is CPR Required for Certification or Recertification?**
- **Don't Forget—Online Examination Applications and Recertification Applications Are Now Available!**

Accreditation Success

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) awarded IJCAHPO accreditation of the Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) and Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting (OSA) certification programs. Natalie Loyacano, COMT, ROUB, OSA, OSCR, Secretary of Certification, reported that IJCAHPO continues to maintain accreditation of these core and specialty certification programs.

Certification FAQ—Is CPR Required for Certification or Recertification?

CPR is not required for submission with your examination application or recertification application. If you are currently IJCAHPO certified and have completed a CPR course within your certification cycle, you may submit a copy of the card with your recertification application to count as one IJCAHPO CE credit. You may submit a maximum of three CPR cards (one per year of your 3-year cycle), to count as 3 IJCAHPO CE credits, with your recertification application.

Don't Forget—Online Examination Applications and Recertification Applications Are Now Available!

Are you planning on submitting an examination application to advance to the next level of certification or do you need to recertify soon? Both applications are now available in an online format on the IJCAHPO website or at the following direct links:

[Examination Application](#)
[Recertification Application](#)

Education



- **Clinic CE Subscription—High-Quality Education for the Entire Staff at the Lowest Price Around!**
- **Implementing Telemedicine Into the Ophthalmic Office**

- **Earn Up to 16 CE Credits at the 2022 Technicians and Nurses Program in Washington, D.C.**
- **View and Register for Upcoming Webinars and Events**
 - April 5, 2022: [Intumescent and Mature Cataracts: Surgical Evaluation, Surgical Management, and Postoperative Management](#) - Cristos Infantides, MD
 - April 12, 2022: [Lessons Learned from Cataract Surgery](#) - Hans Bruhn, MD

Clinic CE Subscription—High-Quality Education for the Entire Staff at the Lowest Price Around!



Clinic CE SUBSCRIPTION

Online courses for ophthalmic technicians

*The Best Value & Richest Content
For Educating Your Team*

jcahpo.org/ClinicCE



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, all staff at one clinic location receive 24/7 access to over 170 IJCAHPO CE credit courses. Visit jcahpo.org/ClinicCE to learn more, call us at 1-800-284-3937 and select prompt "6", or email us at subscriptions@jcahpo.org.

Implementing Telemedicine Into the Ophthalmic Office

Written by: Sue Vicchilli, COT, OCS, OCSR, Director, Coding & Reimbursement, AAO

Telemedicine is an alternative way to communicate medical care with patients that can't or won't come to the practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. Coverage for telemedicine varies by payer. Best practices check the websites for their top commercial payers and create a spreadsheet that specifies which codes are recognized, and which modifiers and place of service is applicable.

How can AOP help? While telemedicine coverage is physician work, AOP can triage patients by phone. For example, a new or established patient calls the practice. What is the complaint? If not emergency care, but requires communication with the ophthalmologist, follow these steps:

1. Confirm insurance.
2. Obtain:
 - a. the best phone number;
 - b. email communication; or
 - c. virtual two-way communication for telemedicine face-to-face encounters.
3. Notify the parent/patient when the physician will be in contact based on the communication options.

Visit coding for telemedicine at aao.org.

Earn Up to 16 CE Credits at the 2022 Technicians and Nurses Program in Washington, D.C.

IJCAHPO Technicians & Nurses Program

April 22-24, 2022

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

Held in conjunction with the ASCRS ASOA Annual Meeting

 **ASCRS**
ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 22-26, 2022 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Join us for this unparalleled two and one-half day Clinical and Surgical/ASC program at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, and earn up to 16 IJCAHPO CE credits on-site and an additional 2 IJCAHPO CE credits on-demand (select courses are approved for CA BRN credits). IJCAHPO will also offer a [COA](#) and [COT](#) Certification Exam Prep Course, and ASCRS and IJCAHPO will co-sponsor two Biometry Learning Labs on Friday, April 22; space is limited for both events.

[Register today!](#)

View and Register for Upcoming Webinars and Events

Learn from leaders shaping the future of ophthalmology! IJCAHPO's webinars and events highlight new and in-demand course topics, presented by key ophthalmic leaders.

Webinars

April 5, 2022: [Intumescent and Mature Cataracts: Surgical Evaluation, Surgical Management, and Postoperative Management](#) – Cristos Infantides, MD

April 12, 2022: [Lessons Learned from Cataract Surgery](#) – Hans Bruhn, MD

April 19, 2022: [Pupils Examination: Proper Technique with All Whys](#) – Elena Utkina, COT, OCS, OSC, CPSS

April 26, 2022: [Review of Modern Cataract Surgery: Preparing Patients and Surgeons](#) – Thomasine Gorry, MD, MGA

Events

April 22–24, 2022: [Technicians & Nurses Program in Washington, D.C.](#) (In-Person)

April 30, 2022: [EYEXchange Houston](#) (In-Person)

May 14, 2022: [EYEXchange Kansas City, KS](#) (In-Person)

June 10–11, 2022: [EYEXchange Florida](#) (In-Person)

Certification Exam Prep Sessions

April 22, 2022: [Certified Ophthalmic Assistant \(COA\) in Washington, D.C.](#) (In-Person)

April 22, 2022: [Certified Ophthalmic Technician \(COT\) in Washington, D.C.](#) (In-Person)

April 29–May 16, 2022: [Virtual Certified Ophthalmic Assistant \(COA\)](#) (Virtual)

May 20–June 06, 2022: [Virtual Certified Ophthalmic Technician \(COT\)](#) (Virtual)

JCAHPO Foundation



- Are You Seeking Financial Assistance With Certification or Continuing Education? Apply for a Scholarship or Grant

Are You Seeking Financial Assistance With Certification or Continuing Education? Apply for a Scholarship or Grant

Applications are now being accepted for scholarships or grants with the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation. [View more information and apply.](#)

The following is from one of our scholarship recipients:

“We are met with many obstacles on our way of achieving our goals. Receiving a Certification Grant helped me overcome one of the major obstacles and move forward with my journey in the world of Ophthalmology.” -Ala L., COA

An Inside Look



- Interview with Anthony Chignell, MBE, FRCS, FRCOphth, Author of the book *Primary Eye Care: A Guide to Diagnosis and Management*

Interview with Anthony Chignell, MBE, FRCS, FRCOphth, Author of the book *Primary Eye Care: A Guide to Diagnosis and Management*

Tell us about you, and your background in ophthalmology.

I received my ophthalmic education at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, and was appointed as a Consultant Ophthalmologist to St. Thomas Hospital, London, where I specialized in vitreoretinal surgery. After retiring from clinical practice, I became the Order of St. John Hospitaller and was responsible for the St. John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem (from 2002-2008).



What motivated you to develop the World Sight Foundation (WSF)?

My work in Jerusalem gave me a taste for developing world ophthalmology. After travelling to Africa, India, and China, I founded the World Sight Foundation (WSF) in 2012. The main, but not exclusive, activity of the charity is to help address the education of those doing primary eye care.

In many developing countries, primary eye care is delivered by personnel other than doctors (for example ophthalmic nurses, optometrists, or ophthalmic clinical officers). Many of these professionals receive very little postgraduate education, and practice in clinics where even the most basic of equipment is limited. They are the first professional to see the patient and, as with all forms of primary care, they have a vital role to play.

We have continued to develop and modify the WSF courses in the last few years; they are now based on the twin components of interactive lecturing and skills-based clinical sessions. This ensures that attendees have increased knowledge and have acquired more skills, particularly in the examination of patients. Our objective is to help these workers identify simple eye conditions with confidence and accuracy, and through proper examination, to identify serious and potentially blinding eye disease.

Our ambition is to improve standards of this cadre for the benefit of those that they serve—usually the poorest and neediest.

You've recently published the *Primary Eye Care: A Guide to Diagnosis and Management*. Can you give us a little glimpse into the book and your inspiration to create this resource?

Most of those we teach have little access to ophthalmic books (but all have a smart phone), so we decided to fill this gap by producing an affordable manual based on the WSF's lecture course. The manual has QR codes throughout the text to connect the reader to illustrations on our website.

Our overseas partners have contributed significantly to the contents to make sure it was relevant to the region in which they practiced. The manual has been well-received and has been translated into French (to reach those in Francophone, Africa), Portuguese (for those in Brazil and Lusophone, Africa), Spanish (to reach those in Mexico and South America), and Mandarin (for those in China).

The manual has basic information, but we have included enough advanced information to appeal to those doing primary care anywhere in the world. We feel that ophthalmic technicians, either in the US or internationally, may find the manual helpful in giving them access to a simple text, and enabling them to better understand the conditions they encounter.

What other projects is the WSF involved in?

To compliment the manual and to reach our overseas partners, we have been teaching internationally through distance learning courses. These courses, although lacking in

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