

EyeLights eNews



INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION ON ALLIED
HEALTH PERSONNEL IN OPHTHALMOLOGY®

Have you heard?

Join your eye care peers
online at our brand new...

EYEXchange Connect



EYEXchange Connect is the place where you, Allied Ophthalmic Personnel, come together to communicate, be social, exchange ideas, and troubleshoot problems. You have the opportunity to connect with peers, ask questions, and discuss solutions. You are a part of a community that will help you learn, grow, have fun, celebrate wins, and understand the challenges you face every day.

Although we recommend and promote certification, we welcome everyone to participate—certified, non-certified, and those AOP new to the field. The goal is to make our ophthalmic technician community stronger. [Join the discussion!](#)

May 2024

In This Issue

"To promote global eye health and prevent blindness through training program accreditation, education, and the certification of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel."

- [Presidents Message](#)
- [IJCAHPO Updates](#) 2024 IJCAHPO Salary and Benefits Study; OMIC Insureds—Triage Tips and Pearls
- [ACE 2024](#) Chicago
- [Certification](#) Membership; Certification Application—Good News!; Certification Examination—Content Domain Changes: OSA, COA, and COT
- [Education](#) Free May Webinar! Earn 1 IJCAHPO CE Credit; Free Courses Available; Do You Have Copies of These Best Sellers Yet?; IMiles Subscription; 2024 Regional Events; 2024 Webinars
- [Foundation](#) Jennie B. Busch Memorial Education and Certification and Continuing Education Scholarships
- [Public Affairs](#) OSA State Legislation
- [Career Center](#) Apprenticeship

President's Message



Michael Stewart, MD

IJCAHPO President
Professor and Chair,
Department of Ophthalmology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine,
Jacksonville, Florida

Springtime has arrived, and Canada's Victoria Day and the United States' Memorial Day are fast approaching! Time slips by quickly, and if you missed some of our winter learning opportunities, you should check IJCAHPO's schedule for upcoming education and certification programs rolling out this year.

Ophthalmologists and patients view certified ophthalmic technicians with respect. They know that certification leads to higher levels of knowledge and more advanced skills that translate to quality patient care. Further professional career development can enrich your life and advance your work. To help you achieve this, IJCAHPO is updating the COA and COT certification examinations to keep them current with your job tasks (see the updates in this newsletter). IJCAHPO is also offering new certifications (Retina) and certificates of completion (Refraction). Check them out to enhance your credentials and pave your career path!

IJCAHPO puts tremendous effort into developing its education programs to ensure you have the broadest range of high-quality courses to choose from. To further enhance your education, we want your recommendations for new courses and potential speakers to invite to teach a webinar, speak at a live

Regional CE event, or present at IJCAHPO's Annual CE Program this October in Chicago! If you would like to teach a course or workshop or have a speaker for us to consider, please contact our education team at education@jcahpo.org.

This year, we challenge you to advance your learning. Staying current on important medical developments in disease characterization and treatments is key.

Be the best you can be for yourself, your patients, and your ophthalmologist. I look forward to hearing about your career progress so we can share your stories and achievements worldwide!

Sincerely,

Michael Stewart, MD, President

IJCAHPO Updates



- **2024 IJCAHPO Salary and Benefits Study**
- **OMIC Insureds—Triage Tips and Pearls**

2024 IJCAHPO Salary and Benefits Study

Have you completed the 2024 IJCAHPO Salary and Benefits Survey? If not, we invite you to check it out! By participating in the survey, you will contribute to important data needed on our profession. This data will provide current compensation trends, salaries, benefits, and other relevant information for the AOP profession. It only takes 5-10 minutes to complete it and you can receive the 2024 IJCAHPO Salary and Benefits Report free of charge by adding your email address to the form found in the link at the end of the survey.

Complete the Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024-IJCAHPO-Primary-Web-Link>

OMIC Insureds—Triage Tips and Pearls

You rely on your staff to screen countless calls from patients each day. Having your employees ask patients the right questions when they call to report a problem or seek advice will make sure calls are handled appropriately. The materials in OMIC's [Telephone Screening Toolkit](#) should be used as a guide to develop and implement a screening protocol for your practice. OMIC suggests the following recommendations to promote both the continuity and defensibility of telephone care:

1. Exercise the same care when treating a patient over the telephone as during an office visit.
2. Gather the information necessary to assess the situation and determine the treatment plan.

3. Communicate the assessment and plan to the patient.
4. Document the encounter and your decision-making process in the medical record.
5. Develop written protocols for telephone screening and treatment specific to your patient population, subspecialty, and staff.
6. Supervise staff members who screen calls. In addition to developing and approving written protocols, the supervision should include:
 1. Training and verification of competency.
 2. Answering questions from staff members unsure of how to handle specific calls.
 3. Regularly review how calls are handled and documented (e.g., patient complaint, type of appointment, staff advice, etc.).
 4. Periodic review of the screening protocols themselves.

If you have any questions, contact OMIC for confidential risk management advice at riskmanagement@omic.com.

ACE 2024



- ACE 2024 Chicago

ACE 2024 Chicago

IJCAHPO'S 52ND ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

ACE 2024
HYATT REGENCY OCT 18-20
CHICAGO

IJCAHPO

THE PREMIER EVENT IN EYE CARE EDUCATION

SAVE THE DATES! ACE 2024 will take place October 18-20 at the Hyatt Regency, 151 E Wacker, Chicago. It may seem early, but planning is already underway, and several compelling **new** and **higher-level** courses are in the works.

Certification



- **Membership**
- **Certification Application—Good News!**
- **Certification Examination—Content Domain Changes: OSA, COA, and COT**

Membership

Your certification is an important professional development and career step! Too often, technicians and their practices don't see the value in getting or renewing their certification. Here are just a few benefits to your certification membership:

- Job Task Analysis to ensure that the tasks performed by job incumbents (you) are currently aligned to IJCAHPO's education and examinations
- Three to six free CE credits per year
- Discounted registration for ACE and regional meetings (Certified AOP)
- \$50 discounted coupons for core examinations
- Advocacy for advancement and protection of AOP scope of practice
- Special reports on the ophthalmic profession
- Conducts regular salary and compensation/benefits surveys and reports to keep professionals like you up-to-date and keep salaries competitive!

Certification Application—Good News

Changes are coming to certification and recertification. To be more efficient, cut application processing time, be environmentally conscientious, and cut costs, IJCAHPO is moving to online electronic certification and recertification applications instead of a paper copy. Watch for this new application process in the coming months!

Certification Examination—Content Domain Updates

Every five years, IJCAHPO conducts a Job Task Analysis to determine the knowledge and skills needed to perform the tasks of our job incumbents. The Board of Directors recently approved the Content Domains from our survey. There are no changes in the COA, COT, or OSA content domains for the certification examinations. The important changes to the examinations are:

1. The number of test items on these examinations may change slightly based on the importance ratings of the survey respondents.
2. COA and COT examinations: The Content Domains for Photography and Videography will be combined with Ophthalmic Imaging. Biometry and Diagnostic Ultrasound have been split into two separate Content Domains.
3. OSA examination: The Content Domains for Surgical Complications will be combined with Surgical Procedures.
4. The new examinations will have three item response options instead of four.

Content Area	OSA	
	Current %	New %
Instruments	25	25
Aseptic Techniques	20	20
Patient Preparation	5	10
Minor Surgery	5	8
Ophthalmic Anesthesia	5	8
Ophthalmic Pharmacology	10	8
Surgical Procedures	27	21*
Surgical Complications [^]	3	-

*3% of surgical complications combined with surgical procedures

[^]Surgical complications combined with surgical procedures

Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) and Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT) Certification – Content Domains

Content Area	COA		COT	
	Current %	New %	Current %	New %
History and Documentation	5	9	3	5
Visual Assessment	6	7	7	6
Visual Field Testing	4	6	3	5
Pupil Assessment	3	7	4	9
Tonometry	4	7	4	5
Keratometry	2	2	3	3
Ocular Motility Testing	4	4	6	4
Lensometry	3	3	3	4
Refraction	5	5	5	4
Biometry	3	3	5	4
Diagnostic Ultrasound [^]	-	2	-	4
Supplemental Testing	3	3	2	5
Microbiology	3	2	3	4
Pharmacology	3	6	3	5
Surgical Assisting	4	3	6	4
Ophthalmic Patient Services and Education	14	8	12	8
Optics and Spectacles	2	2	5	2
Contact Lenses	2	2	5	3
Ophthalmic Imaging	5	5	7	7
Photography and Videography [*]	5	-	6	-
Equipment Maintenance and Repair	2	2	1	2
Medical Ethics, Legal, and Regulatory Issues	4	4	2	2
General Medical Knowledge	14	8	5	5

*Photography and Videography combined with Ophthalmic Imaging

[^]Diagnostic ultrasound separate out from Biometry

Education



- FREE May Webinar! Earn 1 IJCAHPO CE Credit

- Free Courses Available
- Do you have copies of these Best Sellers yet?
- IMiles Subscription
- 2024 Regional Events
- 2024 Webinars

FREE May Webinar! Earn 1 IJCAHPO CE Credit



May is Healthy Vision Month! IJCAHPO is presenting a webinar all month long for technicians to learn about organizations that prevent blindness and support those with vision loss. This webinar will highlight Hadley, the National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) —Vision Rehabilitation Resources, Prevent Blindness, APH ConnectCenter, and VisionServe Alliance. [Register Now!](#)

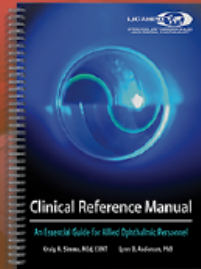
Free Courses Available

Did you know that IJCAHPO's EyeCare Marketplace offers free courses and other resources? Approximately 13 free educational materials—from training tools to time management—are available! Please take a look at these value-added benefits to your membership.

For more FREE Resources, visit our EyeCare Marketplace at <https://store.jcahpo.org/searchresults.aspx?categoryid=194>.

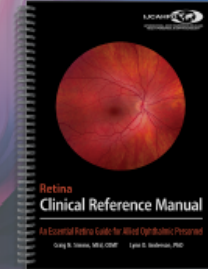
Do you have copies of these Best Sellers yet?

Essential Guides for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel



NOW AVAILABLE!

GET YOUR COPIES



IJCAHPO recently published two important Clinical Reference Manuals for ophthalmic technicians. You will want to get your copies for your personal library! IJCAHPO's most recent publication is the [*Retina Clinical Reference Manual*](#), which has 14 chapters specifically related to retina practice and the important tasks retina technicians perform.

If you still need to purchase your copy, the [*Clinical Reference Manual*](#) has 17 sections of helpful steps to perform tasks, tips, and tools to use in the clinic and with your patients!

Order both today at <https://store.jcahpo.org/>

IMiles Subscription

IJCAHPO'S
IMILES
CE Subscription for Certified Individuals

Are you looking for low-cost CE credits that offer a range of topics to meet your educational needs? Have you heard about IMILES? IMILES is a continuing education subscription for individuals that gives you:

- 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 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**

2024 Regional Events



IJCAHPO hosts regional events presented by leading ophthalmic professionals across the US and Canada. This series is a convenient, in-person learning option that provides a great way to gain valuable knowledge, network with peers, and earn CE credits. During these one or two-day meetings, it is easy to **earn 6 to 7 IJCAHPO CE Credits**, and certification exam review courses are often available.

2024 Regional Event Schedule

June 7–17, 2024—[Glaucoma AOP Symposium](#) (Virtual)
June 21, 2024—[Prepare for your COT Exam](#) at our Florida Event
June 21–22, 2024—[Orlando, FL](#) (in cooperation with FSO)
July 12–22, 2024—[Summer AOP Symposium](#) (Virtual)
July 27, 2024—[Scottsdale, AZ](#) (in cooperation with the Mayo Clinic)
September 13–14, 2024—[Greensboro, NC](#) (in cooperation with NCSEPS)
September 13–23, 2024—[Fall AOP Symposium](#) (Virtual)
September 28, 2024—[Albuquerque, NM](#) (in cooperation with NMAO)
October 18–20, 2024—[ACE Program—Chicago, IL](#) (On-Site and Virtual)

Visit store.jcahpo.org for details.

2024 Webinars



IJCAHPO hosts monthly webinars presented by leading industry professionals. This series is a convenient virtual learning option that allows you to gain valuable knowledge from the

comfort of your home while earning CE credits.

2024 Webinar Schedule

May 7, 2024—[IJCAHPO Celebrates Healthy Vision Month 2024](#)

June 4–July 2, 2024—[June Webinar Series](#) (Four Webinars in one!)

July 2, 2024—Adjustable IOL Technology

August 6, 2024—Myasthenia Gravis

September 3, 2024—Ocular Oncology: How Ancillary Tests Have Helped Us

October 1, 2024—Update on Modern Corneal Procedures

November 5, 2024—Ocular Oncology

Visit store.jcahpo.org for details.

JCAHPO Foundation



- **Jennie B. Busch Memorial Education and Certification and Continuing Education Scholarships**

Jennie B. Busch Memorial Education and Certification and Continuing Education Scholarships

Susan Busch, COMT, established these scholarships in memory of her mother as a tribute to Jennie's dedication to the allied ophthalmic profession. The Education and Certification scholarships are awarded to the students enrolled in an accredited training program and may be used towards certification examination fees and travel costs. The Continuing Education scholarship may be applied towards attendance at an IJCAHPO, or another approved continuing education course. If any of this will help you and you are eligible, we encourage you to apply for one of these scholarships today. For more information and how to apply, go to: <https://www.jcahpo.org/foundation/scholarships/>

Public Affairs

- **OSA State Legislation**

OSA State Legislation

We continue to see state legislation introduced attempting to define who surgical technologists are and the requirements to qualify as one. This legislation often excludes those holding the IJCAHPO Certified Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting (OSA) credential. Earlier this year, two pieces of legislation were introduced in Massachusetts and Maryland. We contacted the legislators who proposed the legislation to discuss our concerns and followed up with letters. In Maryland, we submitted written testimony for hearings held by the House and Senate. Our testimony was well received, and one legislator shared her

concern about how this would affect eye surgery. Our efforts resulted in the legislation being withdrawn in Maryland. IJCAHPO has been monitoring the Massachusetts legislation and engaging with legislative offices. We are happy to report that legislative staff has recently informed us that The Massachusetts Senate Joint Committee on Health Care Financing sent the bill to study further, so it will not be moving forward this legislative session—another win for ophthalmic technicians. We will continue to defend and promote the ophthalmic technician field and their scope of practice.

Career Center

- **Apprenticeship**

Apprenticeship

IJCAHPO received approval from the US Department of Labor for ophthalmic technicians to qualify as an apprenticeship profession. We received the same approval from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry for the state of Minnesota. Apprenticeship is recognized as a highly effective job training approach. Being approved as an apprenticeship profession means that those entering the ophthalmic technician profession who follow IJCAHPO's Apprenticeship Program have been recognized as being able to obtain workplace-relevant training and progressively advance skills that result in an industry-recognized credential, all while getting paid for their work. The IJCAHPO Apprenticeship Program identifies the competencies, job process, training outline with topics and references, and the suggested hours for each area, making educating and training employees easy for your practice. It may also help clinics recruit and retain staff. More information about this program will be available soon. If you want to learn more, please contact Wade Delk at wdelk@jcahpo.org.

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.



International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

2025 Woodlane Drive · St. Paul, Minnesota 55125-2998

Phone: 651-731-2944 · Toll Free: 800-284-3937 · Fax: 651-731-0410 · www.jcahpo.org

Copyright © 2024 IJCAHPO. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).