

EyeLights eNews



November 2025

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"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

During this holiday season, we are grateful to all our Certificants who deliver the highest-quality patient eye care available in the world. It is in this spirit that we'd like to send our best wishes for a very Happy Holiday Season and New Year!

As 2025 comes to a close, I am excited to reflect on all we have accomplished. This past year has been extraordinary for IJCAHPO and our Foundation! IJCAHPO remains deeply committed to delivering the highest-quality resources and continuing education for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel so our certificants worldwide reach their full potential.

With our focus on Allied Ophthalmic Personnel worldwide, **you** are part of a professional community that crosses distances, borders, and governments. We now



Richard Allen, MD, PhD, FACS

IJCAHPO President

*Professor Dept. of Ophthalmology,
Chief of Ophthalmology, Ben Taub
Hospital; Baylor College of Medicine,
Houston, TX, USA*

have over 32,000 certificants who are part of a global profession dedicated to quality and expanded access to patient care.

Coming soon in 2026 are new educational resources—new Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting Prep Cards, new Refinements topics (text-based monographs), and, of course, new webinars, virtual programs, and e-learning courses online each month. Let your practice manager and ophthalmologist know that one annual subscription for \$549 gives every technician in your practice **FREE access to online CE credits for the whole year**. You and your entire clinical staff can choose from over 220 courses online.

We are also excited to announce that IJCAHPO will be conducting its second Minnesota Apprenticeship program starting in January 2026! The program will train up to 20 new technicians in Minnesota practices at no cost to the practice!

We celebrated National Allied Ophthalmic Personnel Week in November! We had great participation, ideas, and celebrations. Recognition was given to our certified AOP!

This is an exciting time for us, and thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Richard Allen, MD, PhD, FACS, President

Techs,
WE'VE GOT YOUR PATIENTS COVERED

GET RESOURCES

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(lifitegrast
ophthalmic solution)^{5%}

Not an actual patient or technician.

©2024 Bausch + Lomb XDR-0419 USA, 24

The IJCAHPO office will be closed November 27-28 and December 24, 25, and 26, 2025. Product orders placed after December 19 will be processed after January 2.

Donate Today—Support our Foundation

The JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation is dedicated to expanding and strengthening the delivery of eye care by supporting AOP and the education and certification initiatives that serve them. This year, the Foundation provided scholarships for 29 AOP to attend our ACE Program in Orlando. If every IJCAHPO certificant donated \$1 to the Foundation, the organization could significantly expand the support it currently provides, including funding more than 100 scholarships for the 2026 ACE Program. Please

know that a donation in ANY amount will support AOP and strengthen the Eye Care system. [Donate today!](#)

Career Center

- **Career Development**

Career Development

IJCAHPO created a career video to introduce the ophthalmic assisting field to individuals seeking a new, rewarding career in healthcare. This career video speaks to potential AOP candidates about opportunities in this field, including key aspects of AOP's daily work, how to become an ophthalmic assistant, and certification and professional associations. The video features interviews with AOP at various stages of their careers, discussing what attracts them to this profession. [Check out this video](#) and share it with your new hires or link to your website that promotes jobs in your practice. The best profession in health care! You can be proud of working in this profession!

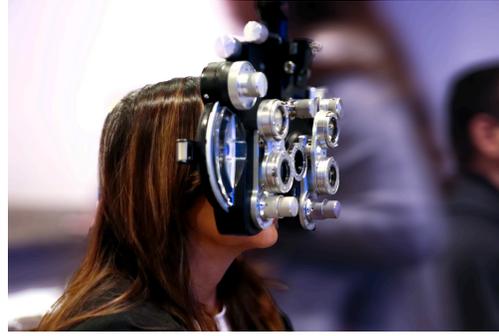
Education



- **ACE 2025 Highlights**
- **FREE Clinical Reference Manual**
- **EYEXchange Updates and Schedule**
- **Distance Learning Opportunities**
- **ACE 2026 Save the Date**
- **FREE Course on Test Anxiety**

Highlights from the 53rd Annual Continuing Education (ACE) Program





IJCAHPO's Annual Continuing Education Program, held in person at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld® and online through virtual courses during October 2025, provided an unmatched opportunity for AOP to come together and advance their education. With NEW courses across the virtual and on-site programs, on-site learning labs, and hundreds of world-renowned instructors, ACE remains *The Premier Event in Eye Care Education*. Take a look at some of our photos from the program and [check in with our online gallery](#) for more!

Get a FREE Clinical Reference Manual (\$45 Value) with a Clinic CE Subscription Purchase!

Train your eye care team with IJCAHPO's annual Clinic CE Subscription—a cost-effective way for all staff at a practice location to access more than 220 online courses. The annual subscription is valid from the date of purchase. Registrants can access the courses at their convenience using a coupon code and earn CE credits from IJCAHPO and CA-BRN. During the month of December, you get a FREE Clinical Reference Manual when you purchase a Clinic CE Subscription for the annual price of \$549.

EYEXchange Updates and Schedule—CE Regional Meetings and CE Course Offerings

Add these to your Calendar TODAY so you won't miss these learning opportunities. To access the online links and information, go to <https://www.jcahpo.org/education/>.

2026 Regional Event Schedule

January 30, 2026—[West Jordan, UT](#) (in cooperation with UOS)

January 30, 2026—[Kansas City, MO](#)

January 31, 2026—[Banff, Alberta, CA](#) (in cooperation with EPSAA)

February 28, 2026—**Houston, TX**

March 28, 2026—[Austin, TX](#) (in cooperation with TSEPS)

April 10-12, 2026—[Washington, DC](#) (in cooperation with ASCRS/ASOA)

April 18, 2026—[Rochester, MN](#) (in cooperation with the Mayo Clinic)

June 5-6, 2026—[Orlando, FL](#) (in cooperation with FSO)

June 6, 2026—**Flagstaff, AZ** (in cooperation with ASEPS)

July 25, 2026—**Phoenix, AZ**

September 12, 2026—[Greensboro, NC](#) (in cooperation with NCSEPS)

September 19, 2026—[Albuquerque, NM](#) (in cooperation with NMAO & NMAOT)

Can't make it to a national or regional meeting? IJCAHPO hosts online continuing education.

Virtual Symposiums

December 12–22, 2025—[Practice Management Symposium](#)

January 17–27, 2026—Winter AOP Symposium

Webinars

December 2, 2025—[Tiny Toys, Big Trouble: Pediatric Eye Trauma](#)—Pavlina Kemp, MD
January 6, 2026—Optic Neuritis and Space Flight Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome (SANS)—Andrew Lee, MD

Visit store.jcahpo.org for details.

Distance Learning Opportunities

Earn CE credits online! IJCAHPO hosts monthly live webinars on a variety of eye care topics.

Upcoming webinars include December's course in recognition of Safe Toys and Celebrations Month, featuring Pavlina Kemp, MD, discussing "Tiny Toys, Big Trouble: Pediatric Eye Trauma." In this course, Dr. Kemp will prepare ophthalmic technicians to triage and assist in the management of pediatric and young-adult ocular trauma, with emphasis on common toy-related injuries in children, including gel-blasters projectiles. In addition to reviewing typical presenting signs, initial clinic workflows, and escalation triggers, Dr. Kemp will draw on findings from a multicenter case series and pediatric trauma cohorts. The final portion of the course will cover prognostic tools (Ocular Trauma Score) and key sequelae, traumatic glaucoma, retinal detachment, and cataract, to support accurate counseling. **Register today for this Webinar that opens on Tuesday, December 2 and runs through Tuesday, December 9.**

To launch our January 2026 webinar, featured neuro-ophthalmologist and NASA consultant Dr. Andrew Lee will discuss his research and what it reveals about neuro-ophthalmology on Earth. Dr. Lee's "Optic Neuritis and Space Flight Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome (SANS)" will first cover the good, the bad, and the ugly of optic neuritis, addressing signs and symptoms, diagnostic testing, and treatment. The second part of the course will pivot to address the structural changes to the brain and eyes, referred to as Spaceflight-Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome (SANS), experienced by astronauts who have undergone long-duration spaceflight in microgravity environments. Astronauts who return after spaceflight may have disc edema, choroidal folds, cotton-wool spots, nerve fiber layer thickening on OCT, globe flattening, or a hyperopic shift. **Registration opens soon!**

Visit <http://store.jcahpo.org/calendarschedule.aspx> for additional information.

Save the Date for ACE 2026

Mark your calendar for the premier event in eye care education! IJCAHPO's 54th Annual Continuing Education (ACE) Program will take place October 9-11, 2026, in New Orleans, LA. There's a course for every member of the eye care team. New hires benefit from introductory courses, and experienced AOP gain insights and advance their competencies and knowledge with courses at the advanced and master's levels.

Free Course on Test Anxiety

Are you looking to pursue the next level of IJCAHPO certification but get stressed when thinking about the test? IJCAHPO offers a free course addressing causes of test anxiety, remedies to alleviate stress, and specific insights from Certified Technicians, all focused on

managing test anxiety. Approach certification exams with confidence and resilience and take advantage of this valuable and free resource! [CLICK HERE FOR FREE COURSE](#).

Certification



- Updated Multiple-Choice Examinations

Updated Multiple-Choice Examinations

Important: New Core Certification Examinations Coming in August

Beginning in August of 2026, updated multiple-choice examinations will be offered for the Certified Ophthalmic Technician® (COT) and Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist® (COMT) certifications.

JCAHPO Foundation



- Awards and Scholarships

Awards and Scholarships

The JCAHPO Education & Research Foundation provided the following notable recognitions at ACE 2025:

- Drs. William Ehlers and Bronwyn Bateman were presented with the Council Statesmanship Award for their many professional accomplishments and support of technician education and certification.

The JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation provides scholarships and grants in support of students enrolled in accredited ophthalmic training programs and AOP working to advance their certification or increase skills through continuing education. Please see <http://www.jcahpo.org/foundation/scholarships-grants-and-awards-available/> for application details.

- Twenty-nine technicians received scholarships for the ACE program in Orlando! Watch the Foundation website for application information for 2026.

Tech Corner



- AOP Week Photo Submissions

Thank You for Your AOP Week Photos!

Thank you for sharing photos of how your practice celebrated your eye care team during Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) Week in November.

D15 Color Vision Test



Congratulations to the winners of the AOP Week 2025 Photo Contest, Rockyview General Hospital in Calgary, AB, CA!

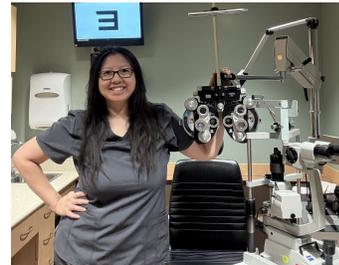
Honorable mentions:



McKnight Eye Center
Liberty, MO



Family Eye Care &
Children's Eye Center of
New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM



HealthPartners of MN
St. Paul, MN

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 beneficial to you and the profession. Please email us at jcahpo@jcahpo.org.

Have you been missing important IJCAHPO updates?

You may have accidentally unsubscribed from our mailing list, and we don't want you to miss out on valuable information.

Here's Why This Matters:

When you opt out of one of our emails by clicking the unsubscribe link in the footer, you are removed from receiving **all future communications** from IJCAHPO—not just the specific email you intended to stop. This means you could miss out on critical updates, including:

- **Certification Reminders & More!**
- **CE credits through IMiles courses, webinars, and training.**
- **Professional Development Opportunities**
- **Exclusive Member Offers**
- **Latest News & Industry Trends**

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Need Help?

If you need assistance with the re-subscription process or have any questions, our Help Desk is here for you. Just give us a call at **800-284-3937**, and we'll be happy to assist you.

Thank you for being a valued member of the IJCAHPO community!



International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology
YOU'RE SEEING THE BEST. IJCAHPO CERTIFIED.

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