

EyeLights eNews



September 2021

President's Message



Greetings from IJCAHPO!

In my first month as President, I want to share with you how exciting and gratifying it is to serve the ophthalmic professional community at such a critical time of transition and need. My deepest appreciation to Dr. Neil Choplin, IJCAHPO's Immediate Past President, for his leadership and innovation during this past COVID-19 era.

As IJCAHPO looks to the future, we are striving to build on IJCAHPO's positive history by bringing you the latest modalities and content in education, as well as provide well-deserved recognition to those achieving and maintaining their certification. While the past 18 months has brought many new challenges, IJCAHPO's leadership has looked creatively to bringing about change that meets the needs of our eye care team, such as transitioning from face-to-face continuing education programs to virtual and/or hybrid offerings; and most importantly, how to listen and be a lifeline for certificants whose career paths may have been interrupted or upended by COVID-19. I want to assure you that IJCAHPO is working hard to continue to meet these challenges and support you.

I would like to share an overview of my background with you. I am President at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, and Delafield-Rodgers Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and the Mount Sinai Health System. I have an eye care team of 35 technicians. Glaucoma is my passion! Glaucoma tube shunt implant surgery and trabeculectomy with antimetabolite surgery in patients with complex glaucomas is of particular interest to me and my research interests include the identification of neuroprotective molecules that can shield the optic nerve from damage without lowering intraocular pressure, evaluation of surgical outcomes in glaucoma patients, and development of advanced vision testing techniques. With the innovations taking place in glaucoma treatments and surgeries, we can make a difference in the prevalence around the world and you play an important role in patient education and patient care.

My commitment and the importance I place on education stems from my own background with my medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine, an MBA from Vanderbilt University, residency training at the Doheny Eye Institute, and fellowship training at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami Health System, and Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, and University College London's Institute of Ophthalmology. In addition, I am actively involved on several AAO committees, serve as a Trustee-At-Large of the

Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), and Chair of the Glaucoma Subcommittee of the National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) planning committee of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), along with several other organizations Boards and Committees. I have been honored as a recipient of the AAO's Life Achievement Honor, Senior Achievement Honor, and Secretariat Awards, Fight for Sight's Physician Scientist and Visionary Awards, and the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who.

I look forward to serving as IJCAHPO's President over the next 2 years and building greater awareness of the ophthalmic profession as we continue to make our eye care team outstanding!

Best wishes,
James C. Tsai, MD, MBA, FACS, President

IJCAHPO Updates



- **New Board of Directors Announced**
- **Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) Week, November 8-14**
- **Volunteer Virtually with IJCAHPO**

New Board of Directors Announced

President James C. Tsai, MD, MBA, FACS, announced the election and appointment of new members to IJCAHPO's 2021 Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for guiding IJCAHPO in its mission to promote global eye health and prevent blindness through training program accreditation, education, and the certification of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel.

Newly elected, appointed, or Board members continuing their terms beginning in 2021 include:

- James C. Tsai, MD, MBA, FACS, President
- Michael Stewart, MD, President-Elect
- William Astle, MD, FRCSC, Dipl. ABO, Secretary
- Eydie Miller-Ellis, MD, Treasurer
- Neil Choplin, MD, Immediate Past President
- Natalie Loyacano, COMT, ROUB, OCSR, OSA, Secretary of Certification
- William Mieler, MD, Secretary of Education
- Richard Allen, MD, PhD, FACS, Secretary of Public Affairs
- Karl Golnik, MD, MEd, Secretary of International Relations
- Prashant Garg, MBBS, MS, Secretary of International Relations
- Jeannine Bayard, BSN, MPH, Public Advisor
- Christine McDonald, COE, COA, ROUB, OSC, Director-At-Large
- Vasudha Panday, MD, Director-At-Large
- Barbara Harris, PA, MBA, COT, OSC, Director-At-Large
- Kent Rose, COMT, Director-At-Large
- William Ehlers, MD, Foundation President

"IJCAHPO is fortunate to be guided by superb leadership. We are very excited that these exceptional individuals are joining the Board of Directors," said James C. Tsai, MD, MBA, FACS, IJCAHPO President. "These individuals bring a valuable and unique perspective to the Board of Directors' deliberations. They are dedicated to IJCAHPO's mission and will add immeasurably to the substance of our discussions and decisions in meeting the needs of our certificants, patients, and ophthalmic professional community."

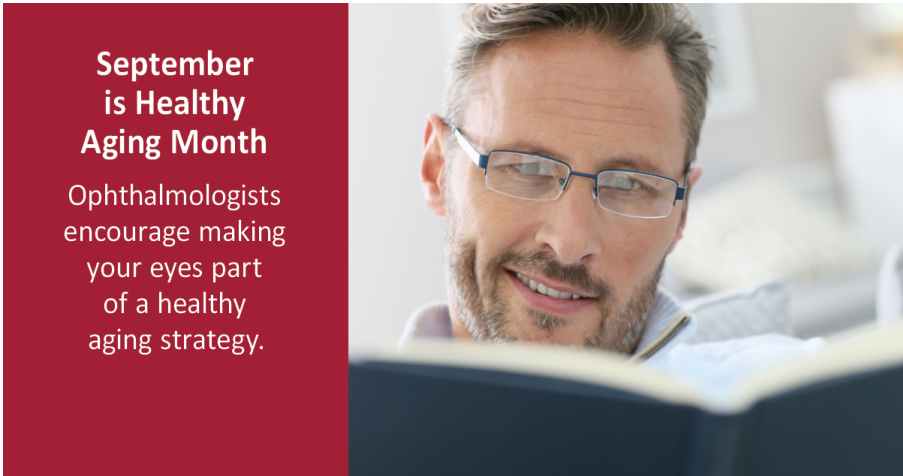
Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) Week, November 8-14

Save the Date! AOP Week is an international promotion by the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO) to recognize AOP, their contribution to eye care, and increase public awareness of ophthalmic career opportunities. Watch your email in the coming months for an AOP Week toolkit and join us November 8-14, 2021, on IJCAHPO's social media pages, as we celebrate and thank AOP.

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.



Certification

- **Virtual Certification Examinations Available**
- **Recertification Reminders**

Virtual Certification Examinations Available

To make the computer-simulated COMT Performance Test more accessible to our COMT candidates without the need to travel due to COVID-19, the examination is available in a proctored environment via Zoom. This allows candidates to complete the computer-simulated examination at their own home or clinic. The examination has not changed, only the means of delivery. Proctors are able to monitor the examination on their computer, share their screen on Zoom, and then share control of the mouse so that the candidate can complete the computer-simulated examination.

Beginning in January 2021, IJCAHPO began administering the computer-simulated COT Skill Evaluation using the proctored Zoom environment. All Skill Evaluations and Performance Tests are administered via Zoom, allowing eligible COT and COMT candidates to complete the examination on their own computer at home or at work. We are excited to be able to deliver this service to our future COT and COMT certificants!

Recertification Reminders

Effective August 1, 2021, the recertification fee increased from \$115 to \$125. The fee increase is approximately \$3.33 per year for your 3-year recertification cycle. The late fee remains an additional \$85 if your application is postmarked after your recertification date, but prior to going into a revoked status.

Effective August 1, 2021, all certificants will be allowed 6 months of inactive status prior to their certification being revoked. This is a change from the 12 months that was previously allowed. For example, if your recertification date was 8/31/2021, you may submit your application through 2/28/2021 before the certification will go into a revoked status.

Education



- **It's Time to Register for ACE 2021!**
- **Courses for Every New Hire—10 for ONLY \$99!**
- **Save Money with IJCAHPO's Clinic CE Subscription!**
- **View and Register for Upcoming Webinars and Events**

[Burning Questions Featuring Ken Jeong](#) – September 14, 2021

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

It's Time to Register for ACE 2021!

Plan a trip to New Orleans or learn from home. With the many changes and advances in ophthalmic technologies, treatments, etc., it is important that you, as a certified technician, stay up to date on the latest ophthalmic education. ACE 2021 provides over 30 new courses at each program (on-site or virtual) and covers a wide variety of content areas, allowing you to choose the specialty education you need. Join us on-site or virtually and immediately bring back your enhanced knowledge and skill set to your place of work!

Join Us Live On-Site in New Orleans, November 12-14:

- Over 30 New Courses
- The Harold A. Stein, MD Lecture by James Chodosh, MD, MPH, on **COVID-19 and the Eye: Alternative Facts**
- 6 Capstone Lectures
- 5 Sub-Specialty Sessions

Or Join Us Virtually October 28 – November 21:

- Over 50 On-Demand Courses
- 5 Demonstration Labs, held live online on November 6
- 2 Sub-Specialty Sessions

Special ACE Announcement

Following AAO's directive, all ACE 2021 on-site attendees, including staff, exhibitors, and guests, **will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination** before being able to participate in ACE activities in New Orleans.

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

Courses for Every New Hire—10 for ONLY \$99!



The Ophthalmic Assisting 101 course package gives your new employees the tools they need to

be successful. Basic principles are covered in each topic to help the new ophthalmic assistant review best practices.

Purchase the Course Package! Courses are available 24/7 on the EyeCareCE website!

Save Money with IJCAHPO's Clinic CE Subscription!

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, the Clinic CE Subscription offers all eye care team members in one location the use of the clinic's coupon code to access 170+ IJCAHPO Group A credit online courses. Visit www.jcahpo.org/ClinicCE to learn more, call us at 1-800-284-3937 and select prompt "6", or email us at subscriptions@jcahpo.org.

View and Register for Upcoming Webinars and Events


Webinars

- [Burning Questions Featuring Ken Jeong](#) – September 14, 2021
- [Corneal Dystrophies](#) – September 21, 2021
- [OUCH! Documentation Necessary for Injuries and Trauma](#) – September 28, 2021
- [Certified Ophthalmic Technician \(COT\) Certification Exam Prep Course](#) – October 1-17, 2021
- [Managing Comorbidities in Cataract Surgery Patients](#) – October 5, 2021
- [Middle Management: Now What?](#) – October 19, 2021
- [Fluorescein is Not a Vegetable: Common Misconceptions in Eye](#) – October 26, 2021
- [Glaucoma Medications](#) – November 2, 2021
- [Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist \(COMT\) Certification Exam Prep Course](#) – November 5-21, 2021
- [Pressure Situations: UBM and B-Scan Utilization in UGH and Hypotony](#) – November 9, 2021

Events

- [New York Continuing Education Program](#) – October 23, 2021
- [ACE Program](#) – November 12-14, 2021


BURNING QUESTIONS



**A Virtual Event
Featuring Ken Jeong**

Hear from Novartis eye care experts.

RSVP TODAY



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JCAHPO Foundation



- Join our Campaign to Raise \$14,000 for 50 Full Scholarships to the ACE On-Site or Virtual Program!
- Jennie B. Busch Education and Certification Scholarship

Join Our Campaign to Raise \$14,000 for 50 Full Scholarships to the ACE On-Site or Virtual Program!

Be a Donor Or a Recipient

Donors

For the second year in a row, the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation would like to provide scholarships to ophthalmic technicians who have been adversely affected and severely financially impacted by COVID-19 or another hardship. By raising \$14,000 for scholarships to the ACE 2021 On-Site or Virtual Program, you and other donors will financially support 50 technicians in need.

The ophthalmic technicians who have been impacted need your help. Your donation will support their continuing education and certification needs, which may not be achieved without it.

100% of the donations received will go to supporting this campaign.

Please donate what you can to the Continuing Education Fund (under Scholarships and Grants) today.

[DONATE](#)

Recipients

If you are an ophthalmic technician who has been adversely affected and severely financially impacted by COVID-19 or another hardship, we invite you to **complete this easy online application for a Continuing Education Scholarship to the ACE On-Site or Virtual Program.**

[APPLY HERE](#)

Deadline to apply: November 1

IJCAHPO and the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation are now and will always be here to support ophthalmic technicians.

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.](#)



- **David P., COA**

David P., COA

How did you get into this career field?

I was introduced to this career field through a good friend of mine that I met at Taekwondo. He knew that I loved my current role at the nonprofit organization I was working for, but I confided in him that I was looking for a new career opportunity that offered a better work/life balance. He invited me to shadow in ophthalmology for a day. I was nervous as I had never worn scrubs, was completely clueless about eyes, and had never worn glasses or contacts! I accepted an entry level position and 8 years I am now a team lead in a high volume, multi-specialty ophthalmology clinic.



What was your path to certification and why did you choose to become certified?

I received my Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) certification in my first year as an ophthalmic technician. I am currently pursuing my goal to become a Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist (COMT), while also working on a master's degree in health care management. Every certification offers me the benefit of continued education and helps me provide better patient care.

What inspired you to start volunteering with IJCAHPO?

My first opportunity to volunteer with IJCAHPO was at a regional CE workshop. It was a great experience! I received vast amounts of knowledge from the presentations and met some amazing people. Volunteering with IJCAHPO is a small way to say thank you to an organization that has made a huge investment in me, both personally and professionally.

What advice or tips do you have for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP)?

Ophthalmology is one of the only fields in health care that offers the opportunity for career entry and advancement through continued education and certifications. When I ask candidates who have applied from other areas of health care why they are interested in a career in ophthalmology, the same reason is given. They want to work in a field that offers opportunities for lifelong learning and opportunities to grow in their career. Whether you are pursuing a certification or have a burning question about ophthalmology that has yet to be answered, take advantage of the opportunity to learn and grow from other AOP through the tools and resources that IJCAHPO offers. Every opportunity to learn opens new doors to increase your knowledge and accomplish career goals.

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.

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