

Optimum VA



The Official Newsletter of the
National Association of Veterans Affairs Optometrists
Winter 2012

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Optimum VA Newsletter is a quarterly publication distributed in January, April, July and October.

Deadline for submissions are 12/31, 3/31, 6/30, and 9/30 respectively.

Please e-mail any submissions to our newsletter editor, Dawn N. Tomasini at dawn.tomasini@va.gov

President's Column

Brian Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A.

Brian S. Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A.

PRESIDENT



Dear NAVAO Members,

We were recently saddened to hear about the passing of retired VA Optometrist, Louis Warshaw, O.D., M.P.H. Please read our tribute to Dr. Warshaw in this newsletter. NAVAO extends their deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Warshaw.

Please remember to renew your NAVAO membership for 2012! Your membership support is vital to the continued growth of our organization! Our annual membership drive deadline has been extended to **February 29, 2012**. Simply login to the members area of the NAVAO website at www.navao.org and follow the instructions to renew at the top of the page.

Please encourage other optometrists at your facility to join NAVAO, too. Over the past term, through the generous support of members such as yourself and the dedicated efforts of your all-volunteer NAVAO Board & Committee Members, we have been able to achieve a membership level of about 50% of all VA optometrists and we need your assistance to help continue to raise that number.

Also, once again this year, NAVAO held a drawing for a free year of membership in 2013 for those who joined or renewed before the original January 31 deadline. We are pleased to announce that this year's lucky recipient was Dr. Dennis Light of the Dayton VAMC. Congratulations, Dr. Light!

I would like to strongly encourage all eligible candidates to register for the next Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) exam on Friday, June 1, 2012. Please visit the NBEO website at www.optometry.org for details and read our ACMO FAQ sheet, which is posted to the members area of the NAVAO website and also included in this issue of the newsletter for your reference. The exam fee is \$780; however, please note that there is a special reduced fee of **\$480** for current residents who sit for the test during the year in which they complete their residency (Residency Coordinators: Please encourage your current residents to consider taking the ACMO exam). We recommend that you register early to have a better chance of reserving a spot at your desired testing site. The deadline to register for the ACMO exam is May 7, 2012.

Also, as many of you know, the American Optometric Association (AOA) recently announced that it is ceasing publication of *Optometry: Journal of the American Optometric Association* after June 2012. We were disappointed to hear about this decision and given the potential implications not only for VA optometry, but the profession in general, we have sent a letter to the AOA citing our concerns. A copy of the letter is posted to website and attached in this edition of the newsletter for your reference, too. Many thanks to our members who contacted NAVAO with their concerns as well. Please also consider writing to the AOA to voice your opinion about the discontinuation of the journal. You may wish to copy your AOA affiliate/state association and NAVAO on your response.

Best wishes for the New Year to each of you!

Sincerely,
Brian

From the Editor

Dawn N. Tomasini, O.D., F.A.A.O.



The newsletter committee is excited to bring you the first edition of Optimum VA for 2012. This quarter we have focused on our membership. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our dedicated members who consistently renew their membership and support the NAVAIO. We would also like to welcome new members and invite you to join us in our mission to heighten your experience as a VA Optometrist.

In this issue, Brian Kawasaki, our NAVAIO president, responds to the American Optometric Association's shocking decision to discontinue its journal. The AOA Journal tends to publish non research oriented papers, those that reviewed knowledge in pertinent clinical areas or gave a new perspective or insight on clinical care; the type of writing that most clinicians use to "get published". The loss of this journal is a serious loss to the optometric community, and it speaks volumes in the long run about the prestige and productivity of the profession as a whole.

We also review the benefits of the Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry Exam and encourage all eligible optometrists to consider taking it. In addition, Dr. Ken Myers, President of the American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry, provides an insightful update on board certification, including recent changes in the career paths to qualify for board certification within the ABCMO.

We thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter every quarter and we look forward to serving you in even more ways in 2012.

Updates from the Executive Board

David G. Storer, O.D.

VICE-PRESIDENT



Winter 2012 is upon us – more so in some parts of the country than others. For those of us living in the Midwest, winter 2012 has been quite mild thus far this year. This winter the NAVAIO Executive Committee’s highest priority has been the membership renewal of current NAVAIO members and the recruitment of new members. This effort has again been tirelessly spear-headed by Dr. Kathy Wang, who is the single person most responsible for the steady increase in our membership, which continues to give NAVAIO leadership a more significant voice at Headquarters, as well as with other arenas of professional interest, where NAVAIO serves as a critical voice for VA optometrists. As most of you are aware, unrest continues to exist between two of our community’s representative organizations – AOA and AOS. Separately, and not as critical, has been the confusion related to the appointment of a new Executive Director for AFOS. NAVAIO, however, continues to

fill the gap for VA optometrists, in areas where VA optometry interests must be represented and protected. A strong membership allows our President, Dr. Brian Kawasaki, supported by the NAVAIO Executive Committee, to speak with a unified voice for VA optometry in forums where representation is critical.

It continues to be a great personal honor to have served another year with such dedicated VA optometrists on the NAVAIO Board. It is not possible to adequately describe the dedication of those who have served in various NAVAIO leadership positions this past year. Where you see continued progress by NAVAIO, you can remain assured that there are committed Board members behind each successful action and activity. As I have mentioned before in the past, they each make my job much easier and I continue to admire their deep dedication to VA optometry and would like to again publically state my deep personal appreciation and admiration for each of them and the progress that NAVAIO continues to make, due in large part to their individual efforts.

We, on the NAVAIO Executive Committee, look forward to serving all of VA optometry over the course of the upcoming year. Our goal remains 100% NAVAIO membership by VA optometrists, continuing our effort to convince every VA optometrist of the importance of active membership. If there are any areas that any of you in the field believe that requires our attention, please alert us and we commit to you that we will do everything in our power to address it. We look forward to inputs from the field to the Executive Committee and actively seek to increase the flow of communication from our desks to yours.

I would like to personally thank the NAVAIO membership for your unwavering support for the Executive Committee.

Janel L. Chou, O.D.

SECRETARY



Happy New Year NAVAO members and what a year we had for 2011! There have been new committees presenting at the monthly conference calls involving open source electronic health records and visual impairment prevention that indicate continual improvements VA optometrists continue to make to improve quality care for our veterans. Our announcements and improvements this year include expansion of the teleretinal imaging services, the new EES online courses for low vision training, the massive updates to the optometry service websites, new standards for the ACOE and resident person class codes, and AFOS changing their business meeting prior to the academy meeting instead of prior to SECO! NAVAO has also made many improvements to their website to make it more user friendly for our members and we will continue to make more improvements this year to get information to you faster and more

efficiently!! We had a wonderful business meeting in Boston with a great turn out from our members. We are only as strong as our members are involved and we would love to get your feedback about how we can continue to improve as well as issues you are having involving VA Optometry.

I know everyone is so busy so please continue to keep up with all these changes by logging onto the website. We will continue to post the minutes to the monthly optometry service call and, as always, this will be located in the members section of our website as soon as you log in. We also post the agenda as soon as we receive it and before the service call, in that same section, for your access. If you have any questions or feedback about the current minutes, please contact me at janel.chou@va.gov. I look forward to a busy and exciting new year!!!

Makesha Sink, O.D.

TREASURER



Happy New Year NAVAO! I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday and we are looking forward to a great year for NAVAO. We are in the midst of our annual membership drive and I hope you have all found time to renew your membership. We are reaching out to our residents this year with a free NAVAO membership for all residents under training at the VA. Not only are they getting the best training available, they also now have access to our network of VA optometrists nationwide and can see the benefits of a career in the VA. We have a fiscally strong organization and with the transition and updates to the website over the past 2 years nearing completion, we now have the ability to communicate better with one another and have some options for new and exciting ways to serve our organization. It is a pleasure to again have the opportunity to work with the executive committee members of this organization and their innovative ideas for ways to make this organization better and stronger in the future. Feel free to share your ideas with us as well for ways we can better serve our organization and our profession both in the VA and nationwide.

Gay K. Tokumaru, O.D.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME

Katherine L. Wang, O.D.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME

Minna Huang, O.D.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (Director of Events)



NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME

NAVAO Addresses AOA on the Discontinuation of their Journal



National Association of VA Optometrists

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January 25, 2012

Dori M. Carlson, O.D., FAAO
President
American Optometric Association
243 N. Lindbergh Blvd, Floor 1
St. Louis, MO 63141

Dear Dr. Carlson,

Since our founding in 1977, the primary mission of the National Association of Veterans Affairs Optometrists (NAVAO) has been to promote the best possible primary eye and vision care for our nation's veterans, as well as to promote the education, training, professional growth, and welfare of optometric staff, residents, and students. The American Optometric Association has been a longtime partner in that mission and we are most appreciative of the AOA's ongoing support of NAVAO and VA Optometry.

Consequently, we were very troubled by the recent announcement that the AOA Journal will cease publication. As one of the few refereed optometry publications in the United States, the AOA Journal has been one of the primary sources of high quality and unbiased clinical education for many years. VA optometrists and optometry residents frequently publish in the journal, which has been a source of pride for both the VA and the profession as a whole. We appreciate the opportunity to make these contributions to the scientific literature in support of the optometric profession and to highlight the quality care which optometry provides to our nation's veterans. The sudden and inexplicable absence of this premier publication, which proudly represents our profession, would be a tremendous detriment for the education, professional development, and professional respect of all optometrists.

We strongly urge the AOA Board to reconsider its decision to discontinue the AOA Journal. The value it holds for our profession and for VA Optometry cannot be overestimated.

Sincerely,
Brian Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A., FAAO
President, NAVAO

Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO)



National Association of VA Optometrists
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Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) Examination FAQ

Original Author: David Yang, OD
Email: david.yang@va.gov

Contributing Author: Brian Kawasaki, OD, MBA
Email: brian.kawasaki@va.gov

FAQ: Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) Examination

I. Logistics: Visit the NBEO website at http://www.optometry.org/acmo_description.cfm for additional details.

1. When will the test be offered?

The test will be offered again on Friday, June 1, 2012 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

2. When is the deadline for registration?

The registration deadline for the 2012 ACMO administration is May 7, 2012.

3. Where do I take the test?

The National Board has contracted with Pearson VUE to administer the ACMO test. The ACMO test may be taken at any of the Pearson Test Centers. For the location of a test center near you, [please click here to visit the Pearson VUE website.](#)

4. How long is the test?

The test is 5 hours long, which includes 4 ½ hours for the test itself and 1/2 hour for administrative details.

5. How often is the test administered?

The test is offered once a year.

6. How long after the test should I expect to receive the results?

The test results are typically available by the end of July. The 2011 ACMO scores were released on July 18, 2011.

7. How do I register for the ACMO exam?

Registration is done online through the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) website: [Click Here to Visit the NBEO website and Register for the ACMO](#)

8. When registering for the ACMO, do I need to have the results reported to my state board(s)?

At this time, the state boards do not require ACMO for licensure.

II. Test Contents:

1. What is the testing format?

The ACMO is a computer-administered examination consisting of 40 simulated patient cases with 4 multiple-choice questions for each case. Thus, the 40 cases contain 160 test items. Some multiple-

choice questions may have several answers to choose from (as many as 10), only one of which is correct.

An ACMO tutorial is available on the ACMO page of the NBEO website:
http://www.optometry.org/acmo_description.cfm#

Sample cases are also available on the NBEO website:
http://www.optometry.org/pdf/contents/ACMO_Sample_Patients.pdf

2. What types of cases are covered on the test (i.e. does the test reflect other specialty areas such as low vision, contact lenses, or binocular vision.....or is it ocular/systemic disease only?)

Since the NAVAIO requested an examination that assesses advanced competence in medical optometry, the exam focus is on ocular disease and associated systemic conditions. According to the description of the examination from the NBEO website, "Overall, 25%-35% of the test items cover systemic conditions, while 65%-75% cover ocular disease. Within ocular disease, there is a high emphasis on glaucoma, anterior segment disease, and posterior segment disease. Trauma and post-operative conditions have a minimal emphasis, and neuro-ophthalmologic conditions have a moderate emphasis."

3. Tell me more about the content of the ACMO exam.

The blend of ACMO exam content and difficulty is designed for the advanced level of competence that VA residencies provide. Therefore, it is anticipated that VA residents will be fully familiar with the nature of the examination content. The cases and case questions are generated by a Case Authors committee composed of Residency Program Supervisors and past VA Residents. The cases undergo an extensive review, and the final mix of items is determined by the ACMO Examination Council, which is also composed of Residency Program Supervisors and/or past VA Residents.

III. What is ACMO?

1. Why was ACMO created?

More than six years ago, the NAVAIO membership voted to authorize NAVAIO leadership to create a credible and independently certified process by which VA residents could document advanced competence in medical optometry. Unlike VA medical, dental, and podiatric residents, until that time, optometry residents did not have a standardized examination that would enable them to demonstrate their advanced competence. Written examinations are required in all of the other more than 30 VA post-graduate residency training programs sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and are also commonly required following post-graduate training in nursing and other disciplines.

Dr. John Townsend, Director of the VA Optometry Service, strongly believed that optometry residents should have an objective and quantifiable assessment to document advanced competence. Dr. Alden Haffner, representative to the VA Central Office Special Medical Advisory Group, agreed that the lack of formal recognition of residents' advanced competence placed VA programs and residents at a disadvantage in the increasingly credential-sensitive health care sector. Successful ACMO Candidates receive a credential from the NBEO that acknowledges their advanced competence.

As a result, NAVAIO leadership determined a post-residency examination, similar to those taken by other VA medical residents, was the most appropriate way of providing this needed credential. A series of consultations with NBEO over the past several years led to an agreement in 2004 that NBEO would develop such an examination as requested by NAVAIO, and that NAVAIO would closely cooperate with NBEO to ensure its clinical relevance. NAVAIO selected NBEO to develop the examination in view of the high quality of its other examinations, its reputation, and proven track record for excellence. The first ACMO exam was administered in 2005.

The American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry (ABCMO) uses the passing of ACMO in its Board Certification process.

2. Is there any benefit to residents taking the ACMO exam if they **do not** plan on working in the VA system?

NAVAIO strongly encourages all eligible individuals to sit for this important examination, which has already gained stature as an important and valuable credential for VA residency-trained Doctors of Optometry. Within the profession of optometry, as in other health care fields, it is clearly beneficial to possess the maximal attainable credentials. With the constantly changing health care landscape, it is impossible to predict what lies ahead with regard to licensure, credentials required for participation in health care settings or plans, expectations of third party payers, etc. Since ACMO is targeted toward individuals who have just completed a VA residency program, it appears reasonable to seek this credential at the time of completion of their training program.

3. Is there any benefit to residents taking the ACMO exam if they **DO** plan on working in the VA system or are currently employed in the VA?

In terms of credentials, ACMO is the only optometric exam currently offered by an independent testing authority that evaluates post-graduate advanced competence. The VA is becoming increasingly sensitive to credentials; for example, in recent years the VA has required that all new physician hires must be board-eligible or board-certified.

In terms of promotions and advancements for existing VA optometrists, successfully passing the ACMO exam would greatly aid in obtaining Special Advancement, which may result in up to a three-step increase in the GS pay scale.

IV. Concerns about ACMO

1. Are there any negative consequences for taking the ACMO test and NOT passing?

Hypothetically, negative consequences could exist if a VA residency program required passage of ACMO to complete the program or if a VA optometry service required passage of ACMO as a credential for applying for a staff position. At this time, neither of these expectations exists, and NAVAIO is not aware of any intention for this to occur.

2. What happens to people who don't pass? Can they retake and pass the test and earn the same "beneficial effects" that people have/earn when they pass the test on the first try?

As with other NBEO examinations, candidates may retake the ACMO examination if they did not pass initially. The examination is administered once a year.

3. Do the test results "expire"?

As with other NBEO examinations, the ACMO test results do not expire.

4. Can fees be adjusted for residents, since the cost may be prohibitive for some?

The standard exam fee is \$780. However, there is a special reduced fee of \$480 for current residents who sit for the test during the year in which they complete their residency.

5. I have completed (or will be completing) an ACOE-accredited residency program that does not emphasize ocular/systemic disease. Will I still be able to take the ACMO exam?

Yes, you may complete ANY ACOE-accredited residency program to be eligible to take the exam. While the ACMO emphasizes ocular disease and associated systemic conditions, an applicant is not required to have completed an ocular disease residency to be eligible. Therefore, applicants with ACOE-accredited residency training in contact lenses, low vision rehabilitation, binocular vision, or other specialty areas may also take the exam.

6. Although I completed an ACOE-accredited residency and currently work in the VA, I did not complete a VA Residency program. Am I eligible to take the test?

Yes, eligibility for the 2012 ACMO is as follows:

- Completed an ACOE-accredited VA residency program by June 30, 2012, or
- Completed an ACOE-accredited residency program, or
- Actively involved in the training and education of VA optometry residents, or
- Clinically privileged to provide optometric patient care services to VA patients, and
- Active licensure with therapeutic privileges as of March 01, 2012 (3 months prior to the test administration), and
- No licensure sanctions or active state board investigations.

V. ACMO Statistics

1. How many people took the test in 2011?

54 candidates took the test in 2011.

2. What was the pass rate?

The pass rate for the 2011 ACMO was 82%.

3. Where can I find statistics for all previous administrations of the ACMO exam?

Visit the NBEO website at: <http://www.optometry.org/stats.cfm>

VI. ACMO Feedback

The ACMO has received very positive feedback from candidates who took the exam. In fact, the Post-ACMO Candidate Survey indicated that 100% of the candidates from 2006 – 2009 felt that ACMO met its goal of testing advanced competence in medical optometry. In addition, survey results further revealed that 100% of the exam-takers stipulated that the exam content closely corresponded to the clinical conditions that are typically encountered in a VAMC residency.

Just a few of the positive comments from candidates regarding their ACMO exam experience includes:

“It was a fair exam - Thanks.”

“I felt the test was fair and the contents were representative of patients I saw this year during my VA residency.”

“I was overall impressed at how closely your exam material represented my average patient during my VA residency! Tough, but accurate. Thanks.”

“This experienced ROCKED! I wish I could take it next week after reviewing what I missed ... Thanks again for all your hard work and I hope this helps solve the Advanced Certification issue. It was indeed an honor and privilege to sit for this administration.”

Remembering Dr. Louis Warshaw



The National Association of Veterans Affairs Optometrists would like to express its deepest sympathies to the family of Dr. Louis Warshaw on his passing on Sunday, December 12, 2011.

Retired VA Optometrist, Louis Warshaw, O.D., M.P.H., was a veteran of the United States Navy, who upon honorable discharge, entered Oakland City College, and later transferred to U.C. Berkeley where he enrolled in the school's newly opened Optometry from which he graduated with honors in 1961. He then went on to become the first optometrist to receive his Masters Degree in Public Health. Dr. Warshaw later became a member of the Michigan State Optometry Board and was instrumental in starting the School of Optometry at Ferris State University. He eventually became Optometry Chief at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Saginaw, Michigan and went on to receive many state and national awards.

Condolences can be sent to Dr. Warshaw's daughter at the following address:

Julie Copeland
303 Culet Drive
Danville, CA 94506

Ms. Copeland is also accepting email condolences at jcopeland2000@yahoo.com.

Update on Board Certification

by Kenneth Myers, Ph.D., O.D., President ABCMO

The American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry (ABCMO) received a record number of applications the last quarter of 2011. Of those applying, about 45% are VA staff members, 70% Fellows of the American Academy of Optometry and 60% AOA members.

ABCMO is the *specialty* board for the *specialty* of medical optometry and patterned after the *specialty* boards of medicine, osteopathy and dentistry by requiring residency training, passage of the ABCMO national examination administered by the National Board of Examiners of Optometry and meeting other conditions. ABCMO is not designed for general practitioners. ABCMO qualification details are at www.abcmo.org, pages 10-12 of the ABCMO Constitution.

Many wrote last Fall the ABCMO message was “lost” in the media debate between the American Board of Optometry (ABO) and the American Board of Clinical Optometry (ABCO) which are open to all ODs and do not require residency training or testing at the level of a specialist. ABO, endorsed by the American Optometric Association (AOA), was sued in federal court by the American Optometric Society (AOS) which endorses ABCO. Both ABO and ABCO are voluntary forms of “maintenance of licensure” and do not meet accepted definitions of board certification...which is to denote a person with advanced clinical competence in a specialty of a profession at a level beyond that required for licensure.

Confused by ABO vs. ABCO and AOA vs. AOS?

As some will recall, three years ago the AOA asked NAVAO to endorse ABO and your Executive Committee did not endorse ABO since it does not meet VA criteria for board certification. The NAVAO letter to the AOA explaining why it could not endorse ABO is posted in the Spring 2009 Newsletter. The AOA did not reply to the NAVAO letter. The ABCO also does not meet VA criteria but did not seek endorsement by NAVAO. Both ABO and ABCO are offered to all ODs.

It should be noted the American Board of Optometry (ABO) could be confused with the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO).

The AOS sued ABO in federal court for misrepresenting itself as “board certification” and the judge decreed ABO could no longer state it certified competence beyond that required for licensure. The AOS then asked the judge to bar ABO from using the term “board certification” and the judge will rule on this in a few months. The AOS was formed because it saw no need for general practice ODs to have additional credentials and objected to the manner by which AOA managed voting within the House of Delegates to achieve the small margin by which ABO passed. The AOS contended the majority of ODs were opposed to board certification of general practitioners.

As a result of the attendant publicity of AOS and ABO fighting in court and the media (www.ODWire.com) the ABCMO message was drowned out. When the Advisory Board met during the American Academy of Optometry it passed amendments to the ABCMO Constitution to allow more time for its message to be heard and for those eligible via Career Path 2 (residency but not passage of ABCMO) and Career Path 3 (neither residency or ABCMO)

to apply before being shut out.. This now allows a 3-year “grace period” equal to those used by medical specialty boards when they formed. (About 15% of ABCMO applications are by Career Path 3.)

These amendments are:

1. Deadlines for application via Career Paths 2 and 3 extended into 2013.
2. New Fee structure for 2012 applicants:
 \$175 for Career Paths 1 and 2
 \$275 for Career Path 3
3. Expiration date of ABCMO board certification extended from 7 to 10 years to agree with medical specialty boards.
4. Passage of the ACMO examination to become part of ABCMO re-certification every 10 years.

In the past 6 months, JCAHO accredited health facilities have begun to seek confirmation of ABCMO certification in medical optometry for members of their staff. Recognition as a specialist in medical optometry is now possible by indicating one is a specialist and listing the required information on credentialing documents with ABCMO as the certifying specialty board. This recognition of ABCMO by credentialing bodies as the certification body for specialists in medical optometry is a milestone for both ABCMO and the specialty of medical optometry.

ABCMO Advisory Board officers are:

Kenneth Myers, Ph.D., O.D., President Myers.Kenj@gmail.com
Peter Lalle, O.D., Vice President Peter.Lalle@va.gov.
Gerry Selvin, O.D., Secretary Gerald.Selvin@va.gov
Molly McGinty-Tauren, O.D, Trustee Molly.McGinty-Tauren@va.gov

An ABCMO updated brochure is at www.abcmo.org where there is also a link to the ABCMO facebook site, ACMO and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

Please remember ABCMO is open to all eligible applicants and not only VA ODs or former VA residents.

The Advisory Board thanks all VA ODs actively supporting ABCMO and wishes to express its gratitude to Drs. Thomas Stelmack and Charles Haine who played key roles in the formation of the specialty of medical optometry and ABCMO and continue to provide wise advice and counsel.

Congratulations VA Authors!

Congratulations to the following VA Optometrists who published in the Journal of the American Optometric Association this past quarter.

November:

1. Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of zeaxanthin and visual function in patients with atrophic age-related macular degeneration.

Stuart P. Richer, O.D., Ph.D., William Stiles, M.D., J.D., Kelly Graham-Hoffman, PsyD, Marc Levin, M.D., J.D., Dennis Ruskin, O.D., James Wrobel, DPM, Dong-Wouk Park, and Carla Thomas

- Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Facility, North Chicago, Illinois

2. Peripapillary subretinal neovascular membrane: A review

Jimin Lee, O.D., and Steven Ferrucci, O.D.

- Veteran Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, California; Sepulveda Veterans Affairs Ambulatory Care Center/Nursing Home, Sepulveda, California

December:

1. Toric soft contact lens fit in a postoperative LASIK keratoectasia patient with high and irregular astigmatism

David P. Roncone, O.D.

- Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio

Please notify our newsletter editor, Dawn Tomasini, at dawn.tomasini@navao.org if we inadvertently missed anyone else who might have published this past quarter.

2012 Continuing Education

January 2012

[2012 Glaucoma Symposium. Woodinville, Washington. Jan 7](#)

[Illinois Optometric Assoc. Winter CE. Wheeling, IL. Jan 8](#)

[23rd Annual Berkeley Practicum. Berkeley Marina, CA. Jan 7-9](#)

[Illinois Optometric Assoc. Winter CE. Rosemont, IL. Jan 22](#)

[Tropical CE; Belize. Jan 28- Feb 4](#)

[2012 Island Eyes Conference. Hawaii. Jan 22-28](#)

[Super CE. Atlanta, Georgia. Jan 14](#)

[Virginia Optometric Assoc. 1 Day Conference. Glen Allen, VA. Jan 29](#)

[2012 Winter Seminar in Optometry. Athens, Georgia. Jan 29](#)

February 2012

[Michigan Optom Assoc Winter Seminar. East Lansing, MI. Feb 1-2](#)

[Indiana Optometric Assoc. Winter Seminar. Carmel, IN. Feb 8](#)

[Illinois Optometric Assoc. Winter CE. Oak Lawn, IL. Feb 12](#)

[Heart of America Contact Lens Society Contact Lens and Primary Care Congress, Kansas City, MO. Feb 17-19](#)

[Tropical CE; St. Thomas. Feb 18-25](#)

[Ski Vision 2012; Snowmass Village, CO. Feb 18-22](#)

[Oregon Optometric Physicians Association Winter CE. Bend, Oregon. Feb 24-25](#)

[The 7th Annual Optometric Cont. Educ Seminar. Memphis, TN. Feb 24-26](#)

[3rd Annual AOS Meeting and CE Seminar. Scottsdale, AZ. Feb 24-26](#)

[San Diego Specialty Contact Lens Symposium. San Diego, CA. Feb 24-26](#)

[NSUOCO 5 State Symposium. Tahlequah, OK. Feb 25](#)

Tropical CE; St. Thomas. Feb 28-25

Illinois Optometric Assoc. Winter CE. Bloomington, IL. Feb 26

SECO International 2012. Atlanta, GA. Feb 29 - March 4

March 2012

Montana Optometric Assoc Big Sky Conference. Big Sky, MT. March 1-3

26th Annual Eye Ski Conference. Park City, UT. March 4-9

Tropical CE. St. Thomas. March 10-17

SVOS 2012 Ocular Symposium; Ranch Cordova, CA. March 11

SCOPA 2012 Spring Meeting. Hilton Head Island, SC. March 16-18

Annual Aspen/Snowmass Vision Retreat. Snowmass, Colorado. March 19-21

International Vision Expo & Conference. New York, NY. March 22-25

Indiana School of Optometry Continuing Education Course. Bloomington, IN. March 24-25

APRIL 2012

South Dakota Optometric Society Spring Annual Meeting. Oacoma, SD. April 12-13

Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians Spring Congress. Norman, OK. April 12-14

OptoWest 2012. Indian Wells, CA. April 12-14

17th Annual Miami Nice Educational Symposium. Coral Gables, FL. April 14-15

West Florida Optometric Association Board Certif. Prep Course. Sandestin Hill Beach Resort. April 20-22

2012 Annual Spring Convention Arkansas Optometric Assoc. Little Rock, AR. April 26-29

Kansas Optometric Association Annual Convention & Seminar. Topeka, KS. April 26-28

Kentucky 2012 Spring Congress; Louisville, KY. April 26-29

Indiana Optometric Association Annual Convention. Indianapolis, IN. April 27-29

27th Annual Morgan/Sarver Symposium. Berkeley, CA. April 27-29

MAY 2012

Montana Optometric Association 2012 Annual Educational Conference. Helena, MT. May 2-5

Michigan Optometric Association Annual Meeting & Spring Seminar. Grand Rapids, MI. May 9-10

Golf Fish & Earn CE; Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. May 11-12

Nova Southeastern University Annual May Conference. Fort Lauderdale, FL. May 18-20

NAVAO Committees

The **Executive Committee** is responsible for the management of the business of the NAVAO and advises the President on all policy matters of the Association. The Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.

Executive Committee Members:

- Brian S. Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A. (President and Chair)
- David G. Storer, O.D. (Vice-President)
- Janel L. Chou, O.D. (Secretary)
- Makesha Sink, O.D. (Treasurer)
- Gay K. Tokumaru, O.D. (Immediate Past President)

The **Finance Committee** monitors funds and assists the Treasurer in the collection and disbursements of funds. The committee also projects future financial demands and sources for the Association.

Finance Committee Members:

- Makesha Sink, O.D. (Treasurer and Chair)

- Weon Jun, O.D.
- Michael McGovern, O.D.
- Glenn Saxon, O.D.

The **Membership Committee** recommends means for membership retention and growth and monitors pertinent data about the membership.

Membership Committee Members:

- Katherine L. Wang, O.D. (Membership Director and Chair)
- Janel L. Chou, O.D. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Rachel Caywood, O.D.
- Meghan Elkins, O.D.
- Joy A Kerns, O.D.
- Rebecca Kline, O.D.
- Susie L. Lim, O.D.
- Amber Louprasong, O.D.
- David N. Lynne, O.D.
- Margaret Mannion, O.D.

The **Events Committee** is responsible for planning and overseeing all NAVAO functions, including the annual NAVAO Business Meeting, Reception, and Dinner.

Events Committee Members:

- Minna Huang, O.D. (Director of Events and Chair)
- David G. Storer, O.D. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Katherine L. Wang, O.D.
- Nancy Wong, O.D., Ph.D.

The **Newsletter Committee** is responsible for maintaining a formal communications link with the membership and assists the Newsletter Editor with publishing the quarterly NAVAO Newsletter.

Newsletter Committee:

- Dawn N. Tomasini, O.D. (Newsletter Editor and Chair)
- Brian S. Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Paul Grusso, O.D.
- Phillip K. Haiman, O.D.
- Michelle Chen Lynch, O.D.
- Joseph A. Pruitt, O.D.
- Melissa M. Walters, O.D.

The **Technology Committee** is responsible for communicating with the membership via online technology. The Committee will maintain the NAVAIO website, make suggestions for its improvement or enhancement, and conduct events requiring technological support as directed by the Executive Committee.

- Kevin Mercado, O.D. (Director of Technology and Chair)
- Brian S. Kawasaki, O.D., M.B.A. (Executive Committee Liaison)
- Jason Powell, O.D.
- Danielle Weiler, O.D.
- Brett Zwolensky, O.D.

Member News

The NAVAIO is pleased to announce that 2 members of our newsletter committee had extra special holidays this year!

NAVAIO newsletter committee and former Eagle Award winner, Dr. Joseph Pruitt, welcomed the birth of his first child on Thanksgiving Day. Noah Joseph was born on November 24, 2011, weighing in at 7lbs., 4oz. and 21 inches long.



Michelle Chen Lynch, a new member of our newsletter committee, was also blessed with the birth of their first son on Christmas Day. Emerson was born on December 25, 2011, and weighed 9 lbs.

