

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL**

AGENDA

March 18, 2011

3 p.m. Eastern Time

1 (800) 767-1750, Access Code: 16019

1. Announcements:

- a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
 - i. Please review the links below for information on open optometry positions available.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/03_18_2011/Open_Optometry_Positions_List_2011.doc
http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optomestrist_Positions.asp or
<http://www.vacareers.va.gov/index.cfm>
- b. VHA Mission & Vision Statements
<http://vaww.ush.va.gov/Excellence>
- c. IL 10-2011-003, 2011 Marsha Goodwin-Beck Interdisciplinary Awards for Excellence in Geriatrics
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Information Letter announces that nominations are being solicited for the Marsha Goodwin-Beck Awards for Excellence in Geriatrics.
 - ii. Dr. Horn comment. Please review this document. There may be someone you may want to recognize and submit on their behalf.
 - iii. http://www.navao.org/documents/03_18_2011/IL_10-2011-003_Marsha_Goodwin-Beck_Interdisciplinary_Awards_for_Excellence_in_Geriatrics.pdf
- d. VHA Directive 2011-009, Physician and Dentist Labor Mapping
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides business rules to standardize physician and dentist labor mapping across all VHA Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) in the Decision Support System (DSS).
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/03_18_2011/VHA_Directive_2011-009_Physician_and_Dentist_Labor_Mapping.pdf
- e. VHA Directive 2011-012, Medication Reconciliation
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes the VHA National Medication Reconciliation Policy, which delineates a system-wide approach to managing patient medication information by reconciling medications across the continuum of care.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/03_18_2011/VHA_Directive_2011-009_Physician_and_Dentist_Labor_Mapping.pdf
- f. VHA Directive 2011-013, Guide Dogs and Service Dogs on Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Property
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes policy regarding Veterans and members of the public who enter VHA facilities and

properties accompanied by guide dogs (also known as seeing-eye dogs) and other service dogs.

- ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/03_18_2011/VHA_Directive_2011-013_Guide_Dogs_and_Service_Dogs_on_VHA_Property.pdf
- g. VHA Handbook 1050.01, VHA National Patient Safety Improvement Handbook
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook provides precedence for minimizing the chance of inadvertent harm to patients consequent to their medical care.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/03_18_2011/VHA_Handbook_1050.01_VHA_National_Patient_Safety_Improvement_Handbook.pdf

**Dr. Horn comment: An information letter that discussed diabetic, macular degeneration and glaucoma care was released and there has been a wait for a handbook to come out with further guidance on topics that were discussed in the information letter. She hopes it will be out by early next week.

- 2. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Messer/Slagle
 - a. Dr. Slagle comment. All VA residency programs have been successfully matched. Congratulations to all of the education programs! If any positions should open before July 1, please notify ORMS and Dr. Townsend's office.
 - b. The ACOE is giving the opportunity for comments on some proposed changes that are being considered at the May 2011 meeting. The goals of these changes are for financial enhancement to meet budgetary projections and to allow for an additional ACOE staff position and to enhance its resources, specifically with the development of an Accreditation Management System which is an online portal for directly submitting information such as self-studies, progress reports and annual reports. The changes pertinent to VA residencies are as follows:
 - i. An extension of the maximum length of residency accreditation from 7 years to 8 years.
 - ii. Changes to the fee structure - VA residencies have historically been charged a higher annual fee than non-VA residencies because the ACOE incorporates the cost of the site visit into the VAs annual fee. The current fee is \$1050 and the proposed change is to decrease that amount to \$1000 annually with a 3% yearly increase. In addition, VA facilities will now be charged a site visit fee during the year of the accreditation site visit.
 - 1. As with all other programs that the ACOE accredits, under the new proposal, VA residency programs would be billed the actual cost of the site visit to visit a program. Team members are reimbursed for travel in accordance with AOA policy, and reimbursement is provided for the following: airfare, meal per diem, ground transportation, and hotel. Invoices for the visits are forwarded to the program when all expenses have been submitted by the year, usually within 30-60 days from the date of the site visit.
 - a. To "ball park" the estimated cost a VA could expect from a site visit, here is an analysis of recent costs incurred by the ACOE for the site visits. The Range of the site visit costs per program since 2004 was \$5545 to \$709. For some

programs, multiple visits were required within the 7 year period due to compliance issues or substantive changes. At the request of the programs being visits, and when possible, the ACOE will also conduct joint visits if more than one accredited program in the same area is scheduled for a visit. (Both situations are reflected in the range of costs per program)

- b. The three year history of range/mean cost for a single site visit is as follows: 2008 (13 sites visited, mean \$1802); 2009 (12 sites visited, mean \$1585); 2010 (5 sites visited, mean \$1681)
 - 2. The second change in fee structure for the VA residencies entails an increase in the application fee for new programs from \$500 to \$1500. The proposed fees more closely reflect the cost for the ACOE to work with developing programs as they advance through the pre-accreditation/ accreditation process.
 - c. These changes are expected on being implemented in 2012. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please submit per letter, fax or email by April 30, 2011 to Joyce Urbeck, ACOE Administrative Director at JLUrbeck@aoa.org.
- 3. Optometry Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin – unavailable for comment.
 - 4. Optometry Recruitment Representatives - Drs. Bennett/Gay
 - a. Dr. Gay comment. He has heard a lot positive feedback from those able to talk with undergraduates and optometry schools and utilize the PowerPoint presentations, brochures and posters that were available. If anyone is interested in being an optometry recruiter, please contact Dr. Gay so he can put you on the list and send you information.
 - 5. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/White
 - a. Dr. Horn comment. If you are using RME in your clinic, you will need to check to make sure none of the manufacturing guidelines have changed. There may not be an announcement that those guidelines have changed so it is your responsibility to keep up to date with those changes.
 - i. One recent change that was noticed by Dr. Horn was disinfecting the Volk gonio mirrors. This disinfection has been changed from 10% bleach to 0.5% bleach and from 25 minutes to 10 minutes.
 - ii. The tonometer tip disinfection had major changes in the past and if you have any questions or are having trouble finding this information, please contact Dr. Horn at Mary.Horn@va.gov.
 - b. Question posed about OIG inspections. Dr. Horn comment: The OIG inspections will be following the written, local SOPs which should be in accordance with the manufacturer guidelines.
 - 6. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin – unavailable for comment.

7. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker – unavailable for comment.
8. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Gagnon/J. Kirby – unavailable for comment.
9. Low Vision Rehabilitation EES Program - Drs. Fuhr/Gagnon/Mancil – unavailable for comment.
 - a. Dr. Horn comment. We have had some incredible work done in the low vision area. We have had a group of people working for the past several years in developing continuing education modules through LMS on low vision. They have finally been completed and there are 8 web based modules available. Dr. Horn wanted to acknowledge Dr. Fuhr, Dr. Gagnon, Dr. Elam, and Dr. Massey for making this concept a reality. It is an important accomplishment to have these learning modules for low vision and they are going to be COPE approved.
10. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Norden – unavailable for comment
11. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Dr. Ficarra
 - a. Kathleen Gernhart comment. Dr. Ficarra is in the process of training two new webmasters who do all the updates to the websites. There are still problems with the links, but are working on being corrected. They are still waiting for another portion called a CNA which is a form they need to fill out in reference to the directories so the service directories may still not be up to date.
12. VA Research Announcements & Solitations - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.
<http://vaww.research.va.gov/news/announcements/default.cfm>
http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/solicitations/default.cfm#All_ORD
13. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Ficarra/Hamilton – unavailable for comment.
14. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt – unavailable for comment.
15. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang – unavailable for comment.
16. AFOS Report - Drs. Hunter/Wasik
 - a. Dr. Hunter comment. The annual meeting in Atlanta has been completed and it has now been decided and voted on that the annual meeting will now be before the Academy meeting instead of before SECO. This will hopefully increase attendance of VA optometrists and help VA become more involved in AFOS.
 - b. There is also talk of all states to offer universal associate membership for federal service optometrists which will allow any VA optometrist to join through their state associations as well as AFOS at a reduced rate. We should receive more news about this in the summer after the AOA meeting.
17. NAVAQ Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
 - a. We have concluded our annual membership drive and want to thank all of our members who renewed, as well as those who joined this year. Expired members and those interested in joining can still do so on our website at the \$55 rate. Please encourage other optometrists at your facility to join NAVAQ or renew their membership if they have not done so already. We appreciate your support of our organization!

- b. We are continually trying to improve our website and always appreciate feedback. Please contact our Director of Technology, Dr. Brett Zwolensky, by email at brett.zwolensky@navao.org with any comments or suggestions about the NAVAO website.
- c. The NAVAO strongly encourages all eligible candidates to register for the next Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) examination on Friday, June 3, 2011. Please visit the NBEO website at www.optometry.org for details. The deadline to register for the ACMO exam is May 3, 2011. Please login to the NAVAO website to read our ACMO FAQ sheet as well.
- d. The Newsletter Committee would like to ask members to consider submitting information on small continuing education conferences that they have attended and felt were a good resource for CE. This is for the *Local Continuing Education* section of our quarterly newsletter which will help members more easily locate local CE outside of the major optometric conferences. Residency supervisors are also encouraged to have their residents submit interesting cases for the *Resident Case Report* section of our newsletter. Please also consider any announcements you may have for our *Keeping In Touch* section, which includes personal and professional announcements for our members. Please email all submissions or ideas to Dr. Tomasini at dawn.tomasini@va.gov. The deadline for submissions for the upcoming issue of the newsletter is Friday, March 30.