

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL**

**AGENDA**

**March 19, 2010**

**3 p.m. Eastern Time**

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

1. Announcements:

a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions

<http://www.vacareers.va.gov/index.cfm>

- Dr. Horn comment. There are several openings for those interested, please see attachment.  
[http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_19\\_2010/Position\\_Announcements\\_for\\_Optometry\\_Service\\_Conference\\_Call\\_3-19-10.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_19_2010/Position_Announcements_for_Optometry_Service_Conference_Call_3-19-10.pdf)
- There are unfilled positions for the optometry residencies. If you know of any residency candidates out there that have not matched there is one in NJ and one in Vermont. Please follow link for more details  
[http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_19\\_2010/ORMS\\_Unfilled\\_positions\\_03-17-2010.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_19_2010/ORMS_Unfilled_positions_03-17-2010.pdf)

b. VHA Central Office, VA Optometrist recruitment for the position of Assistant Director for Research, for the VA/DoD Vision Center of Excellence

- Dr. Horn also wants to bring attention to the Assistant director for research position that is still open.  
[http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_19\\_2010/VA\\_Optometrist\\_VCE\\_Position\\_03-09-2010.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_19_2010/VA_Optometrist_VCE_Position_03-09-2010.pdf)

c. AD 10-02, Patient Safety Advisory, Potential for Incorrect or Incomplete DoD Patient Medical Records when using VA's CPRS Remote Data View or VistAWeb [http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_19\\_2010/AD10-02\\_DoD\\_Patient\\_Records\\_Advisory.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_19_2010/AD10-02_DoD_Patient_Records_Advisory.pdf)

- This advisory came out in Feb for when you are trying to access the DoD patient records. Some data received may be incomplete or missing or incomplete. Please be cautious when accessing DoD records to make sure you confirm that the data is correct with the patient.

d. VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management: High Dose Vitamin Supplementation for Macular Degeneration

- Dr. Horn comment. We now have formulary approved vitamins for macular degeneration. Dr. Horn is still not sure whether or not it will be a national change in formulary or an individual facility change in the formulary status.

- Attached is a criterion for use and eligibility requirements for patients to receive these vitamins.  
[http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_19\\_2010/HDVS\\_in\\_AMD\\_update\\_feb\\_2010\\_final.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_19_2010/HDVS_in_AMD_update_feb_2010_final.pdf)
  - Jeff Chiara, Las Vegas comment. He states the VISN formularies are stricter than the national formularies so it is up to the individual VISN's discretion to make it available.
  - Gary Vanderzee, VISN 23 comment. It is available on their formulary. The pharmacy at VISN 23 indicated both smokers and nonsmokers formulation was preservation, but I-vite also came up.
- e. VHA Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards, H1N1 Influenza Advisories: <http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/pubhealth/swineflu/index.htm>
2. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Grimes/Messer – unavailable for comment.
  3. Optometry Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Horn
    - a. Dr. Horn comment. Nothing new to report.
  4. Optometry Recruitment Representatives - Drs. Bennett/Gay
    - a. Dr. Gay comment. He has a lot of emails of interest in recruitment. Once he gets more information, he will be emailing out a powerpoint presentation as soon as he gets the list together. There are still several VISNs he still does not have represented, so if you are thinking about wanting to be involved and become a contact for recruitment please let him know. You would become a contact for those that want to know what it is like to be an optometrist at the VA.
  5. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/White
    - a. Dr. White comment. He is still receiving emails about some facilities that are requesting restrictions that seem to go above and beyond what the manufacturers recommend. Please remind your facilities that our requirement is to follow manufacturer's directions.
    - b. Dr. Horn comments that RME/SOPs competencies need to be reviewed once a year.
  6. Teleretinal Imaging Program - Drs. Selvin/Cavallerano – unavailable for comment.
  7. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Townsend
    - a. Dr. Horn comment. She is hopeful that there are good applicants for the position. Please pass along this information to anyone interested. She believes the only requirement needed is to have an optometry license.
  8. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. J. Kirby/Gagnon – unavailable for comment.

9. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Fuhr/Gagnon/Mancil
  - a. Dr. Mancil comment. There has been good progress of the low vision web-based course. It will soon be available.
10. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Norden – unavailable for comment.
11. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Belkin/Ficarra
  - a. Dr. Ficarra comment. Nothing new to report. He wants to remind everyone of the 99.5% within 30 days of desired date and also the missed opportunities that are specific for each clinic that need to be watched.
12. VA Research Announcements & Solitations - Dr. Mancil
  - a. Dr. Mancil comment. Keep looking at the website to keep updated. There are other resources available about research (ie. ARVO, AAO, AOA)  
<http://vaww.research.va.gov/news/announcements/default.cfm>  
[http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/solicitations/default.cfm#All\\_ORD](http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/solicitations/default.cfm#All_ORD)
13. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Cordes/Ficarra/Hamilton
  - a. Dr. Ficarra comment. At the end of the month, the current website will cease to exist and the new website will appear. The whole website has been re-designed with the exception of the links and putting the old documents back where they belong. The process has taken the year.
  - b. There has been a short term solution to make updates to the two directories (service and residency trained directory) until a certification/accreditation is approved. The approval process has taken longer than usual.
  - c. Clarification to Dr. Horn's inquiry about wait times: Dr. Ficarra states 68% of new patients need to be scheduled within 14 days. There is a 14 day and 30 day standard. The idea is to create an "open access" to clinics.
  - d. Gary Brough, Memphis VA comment. The 14 day standard is from the *desired date* entered by the referring physician and the 30 day standard is from the creation date of the consult. Please review the term *desired date* with quality management.
14. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
  - a. Nothing new to report.
15. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang
  - a. Nothing new to report.
16. AFOS Report - Dr. Wasik
  - a. Dr. Wasik comment. There has been an update from the annual AFOS meeting in Atlanta. There are a couple of board positions open on the AFOS board of directors for VA members. Angela Musick at the Salem

VA, who was the education chair, is now a board member and at the next annual meeting in February 2011 they will be appointing a 3rd VA person to the board.

- b. Now, Scott Slagle at the Salem VA is a co-chair of education with someone from the Air Force. There is more representation from the VA now and she is hoping that as new committees and board positions open up, more VA members can continue to represent.
- c. In mid-April she is expecting the new, re-designed website to be ready and one new feature is that people can apply for membership online.
- d. If you are currently an AFOS member, please remember to pay your dues and at least a quarter of the AOA dues because that does account for representation of AFOS in the House of Delegates at the AOA meeting.
- e. There will be an FSO meeting prior to the academy in San Francisco which is a Monday and Tuesday. Monday will be the break out sessions and Tom Sullivan, who is a nationally known speaker, actor, and author, is giving a key note address on Monday evening. He is blind from Retinopathy of Prematurity. Tuesday will have 8 hours of continuing education to be determined.

17. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer

- a. Dr. Kawasaki comment. He is happy to announce that the Members Area of the NAVAIO website has been restored and is currently in the process of being enhanced. There's also a link that you can now click on to access your User Name and/or password if you have forgotten either of them. We'd like to thank our members for their continued patience while the NAVAIO website is being transitioned to a new server and apologize for any inconvenience.
- b. The deadline for submissions for the Spring Newsletter is March 31. We'd like to encourage our members to contribute, whether it's an interesting clinical case or any other news that you would like to share with the membership. We also now have a "Keeping in Touch" section for members to share news or photos about themselves. We'd really appreciate the participation of our members to get it started. Please send your submissions to our Newsletter Editor, Dr. Dawn Tomasini, at [dawn.tomasini@va.gov](mailto:dawn.tomasini@va.gov).
- c. The NAVAIO strongly encourages all eligible candidates to register for this year's ACMO administration on Friday, June 4, 2010. The NBEO has recently expanded the eligibility criteria for this exam. Please visit their website at [www.optometry.org](http://www.optometry.org) for details. The deadline to register for the ACMO exam is May 4, 2010.  
[http://www.navao.org/documents/03\\_19\\_2010/ACMO\\_Exam\\_June\\_4\\_2010.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/03_19_2010/ACMO_Exam_June_4_2010.pdf)