

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL**

**MINUTES**

**November 18, 2011  
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. Dr. Townsend comment. There are 5 open positions in Orlando, FL, Martinsburg WV, Huntington WV, West Palm Beach, and Minneapolis.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11\\_18\\_2011/Open\\_Optometry\\_Positions\\_List\\_2011\\_11\\_18.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_18_2011/Open_Optometry_Positions_List_2011_11_18.pdf)  
[http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open\\_VA\\_Optometrists\\_Positions.asp](http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optometrists_Positions.asp)  
or <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/>
  - b. VA Core Values and Characteristics (I CARE)  
<http://vaww.va.gov/default.asp>
  - c. Under Secretary for Health (USH) VHA Mission & Vision Statements  
<http://vaww.ush.va.gov/Excellence>
  - d. National PBM Bulletin: Intravitreal Bevacizumab Therapy Update
    - i. This bulletin is the updated guidance on the use of Intravitreal Avastin. This is the process in which they want Avastin to be used.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11\\_18\\_2011/Avastin\\_Memo.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_18_2011/Avastin_Memo.pdf)
  - e. IL 10-2011-009, Army Reserve Component IDES Exams (Corrected)
    - i. Dr. Townsend comment. Integrating Disability evaluation system exams. Please review for your information.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11\\_18\\_2011/IL10-2011-009ArmyReserveComponentIDESExams.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_18_2011/IL10-2011-009ArmyReserveComponentIDESExams.pdf)
  - f. VHA Directive 2011-037, Facility Infrastructure Requirements, etc.
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes policy and procedures regarding the infrastructure requirements for VHA facilities providing surgical services in an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) in relationship to the complexity of the surgical procedures being performed, as well as the method for monitoring compliance.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11\\_18\\_2011/VHA-Directive2011-037-Facility-Infrastructure-Requirements11182011.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_18_2011/VHA-Directive2011-037-Facility-Infrastructure-Requirements11182011.pdf)
  - g. VHA Directive 2011-038, Treatment of Acute Ischemic Stroke
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides policy for the management of acute ischemic stroke (AIS) in VHA medical facilities.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11\\_18\\_2011/VHA\\_Directive\\_2011-038\\_Treatment\\_of\\_Acute\\_Ischemic\\_Stroke.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_18_2011/VHA_Directive_2011-038_Treatment_of_Acute_Ischemic_Stroke.pdf)

- h. VHA Handbook 1058.05, VHA Operations Activities That May Constitute Research
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook establishes procedures for determining whether a VHA operations activity constitutes research. It also establishes procedures for verifying and documenting the non-research status of certain operations activities prior to publication of findings outside the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11\\_18\\_2011/VHA\\_Directive\\_2011-038\\_Treatment\\_of\\_Acute\\_Ischemic\\_Stroke.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_18_2011/VHA_Directive_2011-038_Treatment_of_Acute_Ischemic_Stroke.pdf)
  - i. VHA Handbook 1058.06, Research Conducted by Employees of VHA Program Offices
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook sets forth procedures for oversight of research conducted by employees of VHA Program Offices.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11\\_18\\_2011/VHA\\_Handbook\\_1058.06\\_Research\\_Conducted\\_By\\_Employees\\_of\\_VHA\\_Program\\_Offices.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_18_2011/VHA_Handbook_1058.06_Research_Conducted_By_Employees_of_VHA_Program_Offices.pdf)
  - j. VHA Handbook 1850.04, Employee Uniforms
    - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook provides procedures for furnishing and servicing employee uniforms. The Handbook designates employees who are required to wear a uniform, describes the major articles that make up the uniform; and denotes whether uniforms are to be provided by issue or by an allowance paid to the employee.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11\\_18\\_2011/VHA\\_Handbook\\_1058.06\\_Research\\_Conducted\\_By\\_Employees\\_of\\_VHA\\_Program\\_Offices.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_18_2011/VHA_Handbook_1058.06_Research_Conducted_By_Employees_of_VHA_Program_Offices.pdf)
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin – unavailable for comment.
3. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Messer/Slagle
- a. Dr. Slagle comment. He gave an update on arranging payment for ACOE accreditation site visits. This entails a reduction in the annual fee for the VA with a 3% annual increase. The VA will now incur the site visit expenses and will be billed directly to the VA that houses the residency and there may be some burden on the facility. The guidance suggests that when the ACOE site visit is scheduled, to request an email or letter confirming the dates of the visit along with the anticipated fees. The forms should be submitted on form 2237 and if the fees are different than what is submitted you can amend it. This is a way to prepare for the expenses that will incur. This should help prevent delays and negative impacts from these new charges.
    - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11\\_18\\_2011/VHA\\_Handbook\\_1058.06\\_Research\\_Conducted\\_By\\_Employees\\_of\\_VHA\\_Program\\_Offices.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_18_2011/VHA_Handbook_1058.06_Research_Conducted_By_Employees_of_VHA_Program_Offices.pdf)

- b. Dr. Townsend comment. If the ACOE visits are not paid for by the facility the residency will not be accredited.
4. Visual Impairment Prevention Review Board - Dr. Brough – unavailable for comment.
5. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger
  - a. Dr. Ballinger comment. There have been issues with VA laptops that have unencrypted data. Any device that contains patient information or sensitive information must be encrypted and all means should be taken to ensure that the data is protected. Please review this information memo provided.
  - b. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11\\_18\\_2011/005SignedMemoLaptop.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_18_2011/005SignedMemoLaptop.pdf)
6. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/White
  - a. Dr. White comment. They were discussing a share point site in which they could put sample SOP's to use and links to manufacturers for their guidelines. He has a share point site set up for Wednesday but is currently locked. Once it is approved it will be an open site and he can continue to build that site with information about RME and the latest recommendations.
7. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin – unavailable for comment.
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They have screened a record number of veterans this past year in the teleretinal imaging program. He believes the clinics have screened 189,000 veterans, which is up 9% from the prior year. The next area they are looking into screening is age related macular degeneration.
8. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker – unavailable for comment.
  - a. Dr. Barker comment. They are having a second conference in February to work on ocular motor dysfunction and field loss with a panel of experts to work on clinical algorithms. They are looking for classifiers for the paraolympics and will be asking for volunteers soon. More to come.
  - b. Dr. Townsend comment. They have some contracts out for the eye injury registry and are hoping to have data in the near future.
  - c. Dr. Townsend comment about the AMSUS meeting. Dr. Stuart Richer was one of the finalists for the lifetime achievement award – nominated by VA.
9. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Dr. Eldred – unavailable for comment.
10. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O'Connell/Mancil - unavailable for comment.
11. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Norden – unavailable for comment.
12. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Boyer/Horn – unavailable for comment.

13. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.  
<http://vaww1.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/research.asp>
14. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Hamilton/G. Singh – unavailable for comment.
15. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
  - a. Dr. Pewitt comment. Please keep sending updates to the committee.
16. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang
  - a. Dr. Wang comment. She will send out another reminder to residents – approximately 50% of residents have signed into the directory so far.
17. AFOS Report - Drs. Hunter/Wasik
  - a. Dr. Wasik comment. She wanted to remind everyone to pay their dues. There will be a newsletter in the next few weeks and you can log into the website to see what your balance is.
  - b. They are getting ready for their next meeting in Atlanta in late February. This will include 8 hours of CE as well as the individual service break out sessions and reception Tuesday night, February 28, 2012.
18. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
  - a. NAVAIO recently held another successful annual business meeting and dinner on October 13 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel in conjunction with the AAO meeting. Many thanks to all of our members and distinguished guests in attendance. Business meeting minutes have been posted to the members' area of the website and a summary of the dinner meeting will be included in our upcoming newsletter, which will be published soon.
  - b. Officer election results for the 2011-2013 term were announced at the recent NAVAIO Business Meeting. All incumbents were reelected. Many thanks to all of our candidates and members who voted. We look forward to serving our organization and its members for the next two years.
  - c. January is our annual membership drive month. We ask that current members please login to the NAVAIO website during the month of January to renew their membership before the January 31 deadline, after which a late fee will apply. Also, please encourage other optometrists at your facility to join NAVAIO. We appreciate your support of our organization!