



For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Jenny Brown  
JennyB@aaoptom.org

## **Academy 2017 Chicago Attendance Exceeds Previous Meeting Records**

Academy 2017 Chicago, held October 11-14, 2017, was the 96<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry. It was the largest meeting in the Academy's history with a total of 7,692 registrants, including 4,799 optometrists and vision scientists and 1,206 students. Attendees engaged in high-quality continuing education sessions, experienced new products and technologies in the exhibit hall, and learned the latest in vision research that is advancing the profession.

The Plenary Session was titled "Today's Research, Tomorrow's Practice®: The Eye as a Mirror of the Brain." Dr. Robert Sergott of the Wills Eye Hospital, Dr. Christopher Hudson from the University of Waterloo School of Optometry, and Dr. Marina Bedny of Johns Hopkins University, covered cutting-edge research on visual cortex adaptation, the eye's involvement in central nervous system processes and its potential prognostic value in disease detection.

The third joint educational program of the American Academy of Optometry and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, "Ocular Surface Disease: What You May Be Missing," took place in Chicago, and will also be presented at the American Academy of Ophthalmology annual meeting in November of this year. Moderators Drs. Stephen Pflugfelder and Barbara Caffery were joined by Drs. Victor Perez, Ellen Shorter and Carolyn Begley. The speakers each provided an in-depth analysis of an area of dry eye development and therapeutic management. This collaboration represents a continued effort by the two Academy organizations to work together to better prepare and support their members in delivering the highest quality eye care.

A highlight of the meeting was the confirmation of 256 new Fellows. Fellows of the Academy must complete a candidacy process that includes submitting written work demonstrating their skills as an optometrist or vision scientist, and sitting for an oral exam at the annual meeting of the Academy. It is estimated that 10% of practicing optometrists in the United States are Fellows of the American Academy of Optometry (FAAO). Optometrists, scientists, educators, librarians, administrators and editors are eligible to become Fellows of the Academy and earn the right to use "FAAO" after their name.

In addition, an impressive 10 individuals were awarded Diplomate status by Sections of the American Academy of Optometry. Diplomates are Fellows of the Academy who wish to demonstrate their skill in a specific area. Currently eight Sections offer Diplomate programs: Anterior Segment; Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry; Comprehensive Eye Care; Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies; Glaucoma; Low Vision; Optometric Education; and Public Health & Environmental Vision.

The American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF), the Academy's foundation supporting research and education, would like to thank registrants, sponsors, donors, awardees, and volunteers for making Academy 2017 Chicago another huge success. The meeting resulted in more than \$250,000 in donations and new pledges. Approximately 200 supporters attended the Foundation's Celebration Luncheon, resulting in more than \$70,000 in donations and pledges at that event alone. Special thanks go to the nine individuals and couples who joined the Presidents Circle or moved up a level during the meeting by making pledges or donations of \$10,000 or more. Because of their commitment, the AAOF Circle of Giving, which includes President's Circle, now has more than 175 members. Additionally, the AAOF would like to thank the Alcon Foundation for their donation in the amount of \$25,000, triggered by participants who cycled for a cumulative 2,020 minutes in the exhibit hall as part of the 20/20 Cycle for Sight event in recognition of World Sight Day.

### **2017 New Diplomates**

#### *Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry*

Macarena Fernandez-Baca, Madrid, Spain (Clinical)  
Cara Frasco, Dublin, Ohio (Clinical)  
Erin Jenewein, Hatboro, Pennsylvania (Clinical)

#### *Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies*

Marsha Malooley, Elmhurst, Illinois (Clinical)  
Graeme Young, Surrey, United Kingdom (Research)

#### *Low Vision*

Vijaya Gothwal, Hyderabad, India (Research)  
Jonathan Jackson, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom (Research)

#### *Public Health and Environmental Vision*

Barbara Cohn, Billings, Montana (Clinical)  
Richard Hom, San Mateo, California (Clinical)

*Vision Science*

Hua Bi, Davie, Florida (Research)

**New Fellows Class of 2017**

Mirjeta Abazaga, Rochester, New York  
Ansu Abraham, Mount Prospect, Illinois  
Rajni Kumari Acharya, Mickleton, New Jersey  
Kayla E. Akers, Chicago, Illinois  
Desireh Akhamzadeh, Beverly Hills, California  
Nathan Lee Anderson, Fort Detrick, Maryland  
Nicole West Anderson, Glendale, Arizona  
Tobin Ansel, Hillsdale, New Jersey  
Melissa Joyce Anstett, Elk Grove, California  
Emily J. Aslakson, Stanwood, Michigan  
Justin Atherton, Beckley, West Virginia  
Bibifatemeh Roya Attarhosseini, Pikeville, Kentucky  
David Au, Los Angeles, California  
Dara Auyeung, Johnson City, Tennessee  
O. Vanessa Avery, Oakland, California  
Feyi Aworunse, Brentwood, Tennessee  
Negar Babaei Omali, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada  
Rima Gopal Bakhru, Brooklyn, New York  
Utham P. Balachandran, Saint Charles, Missouri  
Stephanie Barbara Bandelow, Berlin, Germany  
Amanda E. Beaudry, Santa Barbara, California  
Kriti Bhagat, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Jeffrey Binstock, Redmond, Washington  
Alex A. Black, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia  
Angelina Bonner, Matteson, Illinois

Alison K. Bozung, Iowa City, Iowa  
Michelle J. Buckland, Columbus, Ohio  
Emily Ann Burgon, Raleigh, North Carolina  
Amy K. Burke, Hermon, Maine  
Justine Nicole Butler, Sugar Land, Texas  
Rachael Canania, Cleveland, Ohio  
Andrew Carkeet, Kelvin Grove, Australia  
Emily Rose Carr, Delaware City, Delaware  
Bobbie Jo Casey, Lake Jackson, Texas  
Daphne Wai Ping Chan, San Francisco, California  
Adrienne Chan, Memphis, Tennessee  
Hyewon Lee Chang, Pflugerville, Texas  
Carol Antzy Chang, New York, New York  
Rebecca Charlop, Brooklyn, New York  
Jasmine Huanjing Chen, Sunnyvale, California  
Tiffany Chen, Dallas, Texas  
Reema Chokshi, Los Angeles, California  
Luke Chong, Berkeley, California  
Eric Chow, Davie, Florida  
Naomi Chun, Houston, Texas  
Richard T. Claiborne, Clackamas, Oregon  
Kathryn Elizabeth Clare, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Jamie Dale Cornett, San Antonio, Texas  
Ashley Cowart, Jacksonville, Florida  
Danielle Crane, New York, New York  
Jacqueline A. Crow, Peoria, Illinois  
Melissa Cuan, Milford, Connecticut  
Shannon Currier, Dillon, Montana  
Luke Gregory Cyr, Hermon, Maine  
Kathryn Dailey, Tacoma, Washington

Jansi Damarla, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Jennifer A. Dang, Los Angeles,  
California  
Jaya Dantam, Waterloo, Ontario,  
Canada  
Ashley Deemer, Baltimore, Maryland  
Cirous Dehghani, Parkville, Victoria,  
Australia  
Daniel Deligio, Lake Villa, Illinois  
Michael DeWit, Granger, Indiana  
Laura DiMeglio, Baltimore, Maryland  
Amber Egbert, Evanston, Illinois  
Caitlin A. Eleftherion, Danbury,  
Connecticut  
Jamie Ellsworth-Neiman, Levittown,  
Pennsylvania  
Brian Douglas Engesser, Bel Air,  
Maryland  
Melissa Engle, Denver, Colorado  
Tara Leigh Engstrom, Columbia, South  
Carolina  
Daniel Epshtein, Brooklyn, New York  
Debby Feinberg, Bloomfield Hills,  
Michigan  
Michael Ferri, Yorktown Heights, New  
York  
Jennifer Fisher, San Francisco,  
California  
Trevor J. Fosso, Sartell, Minnesota  
Irene Frantzis, Garden City, New York  
William Eade Garrison, Lakewood,  
Washington  
Reza Gharebaghi, Tehran, Iran  
Nicholas Gidosh, Whitehall,  
Pennsylvania  
Abigail Gillogly Harsch, Boalsburg,  
Pennsylvania  
Laura Ann Goldberg, Syracuse, New  
York  
Marisol Nabila Gomez, Austin, Texas  
Jennifer Gonzalez, Windermere, Florida  
Benedicte Gonzalez, Torrance,  
California  
Eve Nicole Grelle, Indianapolis, Indiana  
Anita Gulmiri, Melrose, Massachusetts

Amanda Kanwischer Gutierrez, APO,  
AE, Germany  
Jin Ha, Baltimore, Maryland  
Casey Michelle Hamm, Saint Louis,  
Missouri  
Paul Hammond, Coon Rapids,  
Minnesota  
Kathryn Hannis, Lancaster,  
Pennsylvania  
Katherine R. Hastings, Sagamore Hills,  
Ohio  
Fatemeh Heidary, Tehran, Iran  
Laine S. Higa, Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania  
Alison Hixenbaugh, Morgantown, West  
Virginia  
Dieu-Hong Ho, Houston, Texas  
Kevin Q. Hoang, Corpus Christi, Texas  
David James Holler, Apex, North  
Carolina  
Megan Holmes, Avon Lake, Ohio  
Hannah L. Holtorf, Little Rock, Arkansas  
Ying Hon, Hong Kong, Hong Kong  
Catherine Huang, Pasadena, California  
Lauren Renee Hunt, White City, Oregon  
Stephanie Ivor-Smith, Sherman Oaks,  
California  
May Jarkas, Mascouche, Québec,  
Canada  
Molly O'Shaughnessey Johnson, North  
Miami, Florida  
Danae Adrienne Johnson, Tampa,  
Florida  
Jessica Jose, Chicago, Illinois  
Anju Kanikunnel, Temple, Texas  
Costas Katsoulos, Athens Greece,  
Greece  
Mandip Kaur, East Elmhurst, New York  
Joshua Israel Keil, FPO, Armed Forces  
Stacey M. Keppol, Red Bank, New  
Jersey  
Kristen L. Kerber, Somerville,  
Massachusetts  
Riyad Khamis, Waterloo, Ontario,  
Canada  
Adnan Khan, Brisbane, Australia

Vincent Khou, Sydney, Australia  
 Ayesha Kidd, Spanish Fort, Alabama  
 Francesca Kim, New York, New York  
 Byung Josh Kim, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 Suzanne Kim, Richmond, Virginia  
 Britney Kitamata-Wong, Lafayette, California  
 Emily Korszen, Yakima, Washington  
 Jason Koschmeder, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
 Jenna Koskey, Eugene, Oregon  
 Sandra Kou, Morrisville, North Carolina  
 Justin Paul Kozloski, Poway, California  
 Carl E. Kramer, Lawrence, Kansas  
 Yocheved Shira Kresch, New York, New York  
 Christie Krolczyk, Rochester, New Hampshire  
 Christopher Kruthoff, Norfolk, Virginia  
 Jamie Kuzniar, Sterling Heights, Michigan  
 Cristina La Rosa, Jacksonville, Florida  
 Tammy Labreche, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada  
 Alan Labrum, Chicago, Illinois  
 Bryan Lallathin, El Paso, Texas  
 Meredith B. Lanham, Louisville, Kentucky  
 Christopher Lee, New York, New York  
 Sophia Leung, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada  
 Crystal Lewandowski, Medford, Massachusetts  
 Grace Liao, Covina, California  
 Albert Simon Licup, Highland Park, Illinois  
 Zhi Lin, Guangzhou, China  
 Anna-Kaye Logan, Houston, Texas  
 Ashley R. P. Luke, Honolulu, Hawaii  
 Michael Brayden Lundquist, Goodyear, Arizona  
 Angelica Ly, Kensington, New South Wales, Australia  
 Megan Lynott, Downingtown, Pennsylvania  
 Ashley Kay Maglione, Trenton, New Jersey  
 Michelle K. Man, Chicago, Illinois  
 Neli Z. Marcheva, Charlestown, Massachusetts  
 Jesus Gabriel Martinez, Los Angeles, California  
 Michael C. Martorana, Louisville, Kentucky  
 Lauren Kay Matthews, York, Pennsylvania  
 Holly Knight McCarthy, Gorham, Maine  
 Brandon McFadden, Spokane, Washington  
 Breanne Beatrice McGhee, New Orleans, Louisiana  
 Elizabeth Dorothy McMahan, Los Angeles, California  
 Andrew Lee Meagher, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 Amasa Mecham, APO, Armed Forces  
 Gauri Mehta, Rego Park, New York  
 Siva Meiyeppen, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 Michael Meyer, Jacksonville, Florida  
 Iris Miao, Birmingham, Alabama  
 Harpreet K. Minhas, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 Diana Mae Monea, Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
 Kelsey Leigh Moody, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania  
 Ann M. Morrison, Columbus, Ohio  
 Masoud Nafey, Mountain House, California  
 Mashael Namaeh, Arlington, Virginia  
 Cari Nealon, Lakewood, Ohio  
 Jenna Kay Nelson, Alexandria, Minnesota  
 Alan Ng, Vaughan, Ontario, Canada  
 Bee Fang Saoirse Ng, Singapore  
 Thuy-Lan Nguyen, Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
 Thien Huong K. Nguyen, Houston, Texas  
 Linda Nguyen, San Jose, CA

Meggie Nguyen, Wright Patterson AFB,  
Ohio  
Lynh Nguyen, Alamogordo, New Mexico  
Eric Noll, Duncannon, Pennsylvania  
Mark A. Obenchain, Pensacola Beach,  
Florida  
Stephen Ocansey, Cape Coast, Ghana  
Morgan Christopher Ollinger, Memphis,  
Tennessee  
Zachary Olsen, Bloomington, Indiana  
Sylvia Panora, Flushing, New York  
Jaymeni Patel, Chicago, Illinois  
Ravisa Patel, Indianapolis, Indiana  
Megan Patterson, Tecumseh, Michigan  
Baley Petersen, Mount Pleasant, South  
Carolina  
Aaron Peterson, Clarksville, Tennessee  
Christine Pham, Pasadena, California  
Yasmine Lian Pilz, New York, New York  
Steven L. Plaxco, Jr., Radcliff, Kentucky  
Nicole Pogue, Roxbury, Massachusetts  
Donald Joseph Pole, Big Rapids,  
Michigan  
Matthew Polster, Mountain Home AFB,  
Idaho  
Cindy Easheen Pouw, Houston, Texas  
Steven Charles Quan, Chicago, Illinois  
Viswanathan Ramasubramanian,  
Bloomington, Indiana  
Harneet Randhawa, Chicago, Illinois  
Alina Reznik, Boston, Massachusetts  
Matthew Roe, Glendale, Arizona  
Matthew Rosner, Houston, Texas  
Mark S. Rosner, Bloomfield Hills,  
Michigan  
Leticia Rousso, Davie, Florida  
Roberto Saenz, II, San Antonio, Texas  
Jill Saxon, Randolph, New Jersey  
Jennifer Gail Schad, Big Rapids,  
Michigan  
Michael J. Schumacher, Kayenta,  
Arizona  
Sepinood Sebghati, Woodland Hills,  
California  
Vivian Phan Shibayama, Los Angeles,  
California

Sarin Siriamonthep, Hamden,  
Connecticut  
Leslie Small, Miami, Florida  
Michael Wayne Smith, Dallas, Texas  
Melissa Smith, Baltimore, Maryland  
Olivia Steinberg, Winfield, Illinois  
Brandi E. Stewart, San Antonio, Texas  
Shantise M. Story, Smyrna, Georgia  
Nicole Catherine Stout, Bowmanville,  
Ontario, Canada  
Kelly Christine Summers, Fishers,  
Indiana  
Jennifer Sutter, Mount Vernon, Indiana  
Anthony Swanholm, Louisville, Kentucky  
Alexandra A. Talaber, Boulder,  
Colorado  
Jenny Tan, Alameda, California  
Li Li Tan, Singapore, Singapore  
Wenny Tan, New York, New York  
Megan Taylor, Madison, Alabama  
William Lee Thibodeaux, Decatur,  
Alabama  
Marsha Ann Thomas, Pearland, Texas  
Maryjo Ann Thomas, Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania  
Emily M. Thompson, Oklahoma City,  
Oklahoma  
Paige Thompson, Chattanooga,  
Tennessee  
Chung T. To, Tampa, Florida  
Truyet Tran, San Francisco, California  
Anthony Tran, Sydney, Australia  
Toan Minh Trinh, APO, Armed Forces  
Eva C. Tsui, Brooklyn, New York  
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Sandra Vidacic, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Celina Villanueva, Boerne, Texas  
Tracy Wang, Castro Valley, California  
Anna Seohyun Wang, San Francisco,  
California  
Kimberly Warner, Madison, Indiana  
Cassandra Warr, Wake Forest, North  
Carolina  
Marie Elizabeth Wehner, Saint Louis,  
Missouri

Jamie Weiser, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin  
Nurit Ariel Wilkins, Baltimore, Maryland  
Dianne Louise Williams, Hanahan,  
South Carolina  
Veronica Gee Wong, Kingwood, Texas  
Elizabeth Yanting Wong, Sydney, New  
South Wales, Australia

Eric A. Woo, Downers Grove, Illinois  
Shun-nan Yang, Forest Grove, Oregon  
Kevin Yuan, Rancho Palos Verdes,  
California  
Ting Zhang, Goldsboro, North Carolina  
Wenlin Zhang, Los Angeles, California  
Tina Zheng, Anaheim, California

### **About the American Academy of Optometry**

The American Academy of Optometry (AAO) enhances excellence in optometric practice by fostering research and disseminating knowledge in vision science through its journal, *Optometry and Vision Science*, and the continuing education presented at its annual meeting. Fellows of the Academy are committed to the premise that learning is a lifelong obligation of a professional, as is the commitment to expand the profession's knowledge base through ongoing fellowship and exchange.

### **About the American Academy of Optometry Foundation**

The American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF) is a 501(c)(3) philanthropic organization that develops and provides financial support for optometric research and education in vision and eye health to improve patient clinical care. The AAOF is a proud affiliate of the American Academy of Optometry.

The next annual meeting of the Academy will be November 7-10, 2018 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, TX. For more information, visit: <http://www.aaopt.org>.

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