Celebrating New Beginnings

Victor Samuel Ott
Born 11/13/23

Ali Tariq Fugett
Born May 22nd, 2023

Jessica Elsie Kanhofer
Born 9/14/23

Congrats MOA Moms!
OUR MISSION

The Maryland Optometric Association serves as the voice of optometry in Maryland to protect doctors and their patients. We advocate, educate and connect optometrists by strong advocacy efforts, providing premier educational resources, and engaging events that bring doctors and industry partners together.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Vicky Wong
President

Natalie Sukontasup
President Elect

Heather Atcherson
1st Vice President

Katharine Funari
2nd Vice President

Saadia Tariq
Secretary Treasurer

Whitney Faerman
Immediate Past President

Directors | Society Presidents

Laura Goldberg
Anne Arundel
AACOS

Barbra Johnson
Central MD
CMOS

Eleanor Siri
Eastern Shore
ESOS

Jenny Chan
Greater Baltimore
GBOS

Rose Wood
Western MD
WMOS
Thank you for your support!

MOA Partners

GOLD
- CooperVision
- HORIZON.
- Versant Health.
  bringing you DavisVision® and SuperiorVision®
- Visionary Eye Doctors
  Advanced technology with a loving touch
- vsp VISION

SILVER
- Alcon
  SEE BRILLIANTLY
- ANNE ARUNDEL Eye Center
- GOEL VISION
  TRANSFORM THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD
- myeyeDR
- ZEISS
  CARL ZEISS VISION

BRONZE
- Allergan
- Biotissue Ocular
- Dompé
- Johnson & Johnson Vision
- Katzen Eye Group
  $ Supporting Optometry Since 1968
- Maryland State Library
- LBP D
- MacuHealth
- neurolens
- Resonant Financial Management
- EssilorLuxottica
- Eye Care
  LensCrafters
  optical
  Pearled Vision
- SIGHT SCIENCES
- SUN OPHTHALMIC

OPTASE®
InsEyed Scoop

Table of Contents

Featured Article
Upcoming Events
News You Can Use & More!

MOA | Local News & Nat’l News

MOA 2023 Fall Conference Recap 05
Fostering Leadership 06
BEO Buzz (2024 License Requirements) 07
Educating MD Legislators 08
2023 New Member Appreciation 09

Focusing on Young ODs 11
New Membership Comm Chair Intro 12
Member Benefits 14
Share Your Expertise 15
National News 18

MARYLAND OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

MARYLAND OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

MOA | Local News & Nat’l News

MOA 2023 Fall Conference Recap 05
Fostering Leadership 06
BEO Buzz (2024 License Requirements) 07
Educating MD Legislators 08
2023 New Member Appreciation 09

Focusing on Young ODs 11
New Membership Comm Chair Intro 12
Member Benefits 14
Share Your Expertise 15
National News 18

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Optometry News
Last month, we hosted our Fall Conference at The Graduate Hotel in Annapolis. We had wonderful participation from our members both in person and virtually. With exceptional lectures from Dr. Dunbar, Dr. Edlow, and Dr. Jenewein, there was much to be gained from our members' attendance. This event would not have been possible without our sponsors and exhibitors including Dompe Pharmaceuticals, Holzman Laser Vision, and Alexion. We even had our most extensive participation in our exhibit hall yet! It was hopping! Everyone enjoyed participating and learning about all of the opportunities our partners presented and were very excited to participate in the large number of raffles they generously contributed. We hope to see everyone at our next convention for even more camaraderie, learning, and excitement in Maryland Optometry!

View the Highlight Reel!
The AOA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The American Optometric Association’s (AOA) Leadership Development Committee is thrilled to introduce the graduating class of the 2023 AOA Leadership Institute. This program was designed to help support and foster a diverse group of emerging leaders in our profession. The MOA is proud to recognize the following members of our association who graduated with the 2023 AOA Leadership Institute class.

- **Heather Atcherson, O.D.** (MOA 2nd VP)  
  * pictured on left
- **Lindsay Argo, O.D.**  
  * pictured on right

These members were nominated by our association and selected by the AOA Leadership Development Committee. Participation in this program will nurture and foster leadership skills which will be applicable in every aspect of their professional and personal lives. The AOA Leadership Institute is a 12-month long program that has both virtual and in-person components; the curriculum includes four topics: leadership brand, public speaking, negotiation skills and leading change. At the conclusion of the yearlong program, we hope these members will serve in a volunteer leadership role and will contribute to our profession and our state association moving forward! Please join us in congratulating our emerging leaders!

The AOA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE 2.0

The AOA Leadership Development Committee is thrilled to introduce the inaugural graduating class of the 2023 AOA Leadership Institute 2.0 program. This program was developed to continue the education of and engagement with our next generation of leaders within the AOA and its affiliates. The AOA Leadership Institute 2.0 was held in St. Louis from October 27-29, 2023. The MOA is proud to recognize the following members of our association who graduated with the 2023 AOA Leadership Institute 2.0 class.

- **Vicky Wong, O.D.**  
  (MOA President)
- **Laura Goldberg, O.D.**  
  (AACOS President)
- **Devin Sasser, O.D.**
- **Kevin Chan, O.D.**

The AOA Leadership Institute 2.0 curriculum included an Insights professional development seminar, public speaking and media training, allyship as a leadership skill, building relationships with legislators, and a session on what you need to know to lead a committee/be a good committee member. We are so proud of our graduates who continue on their leadership path, contributing to their communities, the profession and their state and national associations!
2024 LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Continuing education requirements for 2024 licensure renewal return to pre-pandemic requisites.

Let’s clarify! The 50hr bi-annual CE requirement for 24' TPA license renewal includes the following...

- **30 hrs of TPA Credits** (COPE or BEO approved courses)
- **CPR Certification** (online or virtual) - up to 3 hrs of credit may be received
- **20 hrs of Additional Credits** (COPE or BEO approved courses) in the following areas:
  *For more information on categories listed below, visit the **BEO website**
  - Board Meeting Attendance -- (up to 4 hrs for attending a BEO meeting - 2 credit hrs per mtg)
  - Clinical Observation -- (up to 8 hrs from any Board approved site)
  - General -- (3 hrs CPR, 4 hrs of each Ethics | Practice Mgt | Optometric Ethics/Jurisprudence | Cultural Competency & Other)
  - Journal and Internet Courses -- (up to 20 hrs w/post test)
  - Lecture (In Person-Live) -- no limit
  - Presented Program -- max of 24 hrs (1 credit for prep and 1 credit for each lecture hr presented)
  - Pro Bono Work -- max of 12 hrs (2 credits for each 3 hrs of Board Approved service)
  - Published Paper -- max of 12 hrs for published or peer reviewed papers

**NOTE:** 10 of the 20 live/in person CE credits must be received from a non-profit in-State administrator providing either COPE or BEO Approved coursework. Virtual synchronous/hybrid education may be considered Live/In Person with BOE approval (i.e. MOA 2023 Fall Conference)

YOUR CHANCE TO SERVE MARYLAND OPTOMETRY

Two seats on the Maryland State Board of Examiners in Optometry are open for 2024. By law, the MOA is required to provide the Governor with a list of 3 nominees per open seat. Qualified applicants must be actively practicing optometry in Maryland and have been licensed for at least 5 years. If you are interested in serving on the State Board of Optometry, visit the Governor’s Appointment Office website to create a login and apply HERE.

With a variety of brands and practice options to choose from, EssilorLuxottica Branded Practices provide you with the freedom and flexibility to create the best path for your needs.

**FOLLOW YOUR VISION.**

Want to learn more? Connect with an Eye Care team member today.
Educating New Legislators

Last year 1/4 of Maryland General Assembly members (House & Senate) left or changed over. New legislators don’t know the difference between an optician and an optometrist. Help us set the record straight!

LEGISLATORS NEED TO KNOW THAT OPTOMETRISTS ARE PRIMARY EYE CARE PROVIDERS ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM!

ADVOCACY MATTERS!

WHITE COATS IN ANNAPOLIS ADVOCACY DAY

January 30, 2024

Help elevate Maryland Optometry!

Join colleagues in Annapolis to educate your legislators about the critical role optometrists play in health care.

OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE MUST BE HEARD

SIGN UP TODAY!

Maryland Optometric Association
Welcome to the MOA Family!

Steven Abraham
Amina Azam
Krupa Baxi
Divya Bhandari
Daniel Byron
Jenny Chen
Jiyon Cheng
Aspen Chun
Bridgette Connorton
Jane Council
Arjun Dalsania
Evelyn Dearing
Nancy Draskovic
Irving Gan
Matthew Hockett
David Holland
Sophia Johnson
Cynthia Jun
Kenneth Kisamore
Alice Laflamme
Heather Min
Raquel Moncrieffe
Natalia Muniz
Amaka Okeke
Adriana Okoye
Dhruvi Patel
Prina Patel
Riya Patel
Tony Phillips
Ryan Posse
Marni Robins
Misbah Shafiq
Erica Shin
Tammy Tran
Callia Tweedell
Ashley Westbrook

Extended through December 2024!

PECAA
The Power of Independence

INCREASE YOUR VSP® EXAM REVENUE UP TO AN ADDITIONAL $45,000
PECAA MAX MEMBERS RECEIVE AN EXTRA $5 FOR VSP EYE EXAMS
LEARN MORE AT PECAAXAMREBATE.COM

ENSURE DRY EYE PATIENTS ARE SUPPORTED

OPTASE® offers a comprehensive and innovative line of preservative free dry eye lubricants, lid hygiene solutions, and hot and cold compresses that all help tackle symptoms of dry eye to support patient’s quality of life.

REACH OUT TO YOUR ACCOUNT MANAGER TO LEARN MORE
Annette Olsen, annette@optasea.com

OPTASE®
Protect their vision from getting worse as they grow.

Meet MiSight 1 day: the only dual purpose contact lens to both correct vision and control myopia. §1

Through early intervention, you have the power to protect their vision from worsening with the first and only* FDA approved† product proven to slow the progression of myopia in children, aged 8-12 at the initiation of treatment. §1 MiSight®, for the love of sight.

* Only FDA approved soft contact lens designed for myopia control in the U.S.
† Indications for Use: MiSight® 1 day (omafilcon A) soft (hydrophilic) contact lenses for daily wear are indicated for the correction of myopic ametropia and for slowing the progression of myopia in children with non-diseased eyes, who at the initiation of treatment are 8-12 years of age and have a refraction of -0.75 to 4.00 diopters (spherical equivalent) with ≤ 0.75 diopters of astigmatism. The lens is to be discarded after each removal.
§ Compared to a single vision 1 day lens over a 3-year period.

©2023 CooperVision 15254 9/23
During 2023, with the help of Drs. Diana Chu and Katharine Funari, all the Young OD events were extremely successful with great attendance, along with generous sponsorship. The events this year included dinner in Annapolis and Columbia, sponsored by VSP and Sun Ophthalmic respectively. Our second annual golfing event took place at TopGolf in Germantown, with sponsorship by Neurolens. We also had a very well-attended hybrid event with Johnson & Johnson in Bethesda, an empowerment of and networking between young ODs. Additionally, under my leadership, we have now created a tradition of an annual MOA Young OD and Pup Ugly Xmas Sweater Party. This highly anticipated event, sponsored by MacuHealth, will take place this year on December 20 at the Bark Social in Canton.

These networking opportunities allow young optometrists to have a unique and safe space to share challenges and obstacles faced in the real world. I have seen first-hand how career hurdles have been tackled as a result of the connections formed and the advice given by fellow young ODs at these events. Additionally, by welcoming students and residents to attend, we also have created a source of recruitment for young talent interested in practicing in our state.

I cannot imagine practicing optometry successfully without being a part of this wonderful organization, as they have provided us with an abundance of connections and tireless advocacy for our profession. I want to encourage each and every one of you to get involved. It can be through joining a committee or through helping your local society president plan a CE. Whatever it may be, I promise you that you will feel not only rewarded but it will also bring you closer and be more connected to your colleagues. With that, I hope to continue serving the Maryland Optometric community for decades to come.

I wish you and all your loved ones a happy holiday and safe New Years.
We would like to welcome Dr. Katharine Funari to the position of membership chair. She is currently an Instructor at Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute focusing on pediatrics, binocular vision, and traumatic brain injury. Dr Funari has been involved with the MOA since she was a student at Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry where she started the Maryland Optometrist Student Association. After her residency in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision at the Eye Institute she moved back to Maryland where she is from to start in her position at Wilmer. Since her graduation, she has participated in the Young OD committee, the Education Committee, and the Membership Committee. Dr. Funari hopes to continue the initiatives started with Dr. Sukontasup and improve MOA member benefits. She looks forward to working with our membership to focus on the concerns most important to them and represent all Maryland Optometrist to the best of her ability.

If you have concerns or questions for Dr. Funari or would like information on how to become more involved and join the membership committee please contact membershipchair@marylandoptometry.org

--- Did You Know? ---

**MOA now has texting capability!**

You can call or text us at 410-486-9662 or contact us via email at info@marylandoptometry.org.
Visionary Eye Doctors, founded by J. Alberto Martinez, MD, has been at the Forefront of eye health care for more than 25 years. We have pioneered several leading-edge procedures in the Washington, DC metro area – including Light-Adjustable Lens for cataract surgery – that have helped advance the standard of care in our region.

From our experienced, providing patient-first care means delivering the very best possible patient experience, from comfort, ease and efficiency to optimal treatment precision and outcomes. It means working hand in hand with our local optometrist to individualize attention and treatment, genuine compassion, and total commitment to your patients' best interests.

Our Doctors
J. Alberto Martinez, MD
Sandra Lora Cremers, MD, FACS
Andrew Hammer, MD
Daniel Sarezky, MD
Reena Garg, MD
Georgina Medina, MD
Robert Kaufman, MD
Fritz Allen, MD
Nima Moainie, MD
Shirley Middleton, MD
Edward Tsoy, MD
Babak Hosseini, OD
Lorena Riveros, OD
Maliha Saeed, OD
Alexa Pereira, OD
Rossana Luna, OD

Our Services and Areas of Expertise
° Cataract Center
° Pterygium Removal
° Dry Eye Center
° LASIK Surgery
° LASIK Alternatives
° Corneal Care Center
° Glaucoma Center

If you would like to refer a patient, or need referral information, please contact KATIA CARPIO:
kcarpio@voeyedr.com
Office: 301.896.0890, ext.149
Cell: 240.463.9026
**Member Benefits**

Are You Taking Advantage of AOA & MOA Benefits?

**Keeping You Informed**
MOA & AOA provide access to industry-leading and local news, educational content, and professional development, including hybrid Live CE and on-demand CE with EyeLearn® that you can experience without leaving home.

**Saving You Time & Money**
Leverage discounts on insurance, supplies, resources for your practice through Exclusive MOA Member Benefit Programs and AOAExcel®.

**Addressing Maryland Specific Practice-Related Questions**
Whether its about licensure, scope of practice, an insurance issue, the MVA or something else, MOA is here to help. Check out the MOA Member Only Resources webpage to find the right contact, or contact us for help anytime at info@marylandoptometry.org. You can also text us at (410) 486-9662

**Paraoptometric Resources**
Enrolling your staff couldn’t be easier, and it’s FREE! ENROLL TODAY AOA associate membership gains staff acces to:

- CPC- and AOA-approved CE and professional development, training and certification materials in AOA EyeLearn.
- Member rates for AOA events, such as Optometry's Meeting.
- Volunteer and networking opportunities on a national level.
- All CPC, MOA & AOA publications and newsletters.

Have questions about enrolling paraoptometric staff or associate member benefits? Contact the AOA Education Center or Member Services at 800.365.2219 to get started today.
MOA has joined the Optometry Times Strategic Alliance Partnership (SAP) program. The Program is a non-monetary, non-exclusive, collaboration tool that works to align content creation across their multi-channel platform inclusive of print, digital, and event tactics, with their partners’ key objectives and to support the work of partnering organizations. This program allows our organization to leverage the extensive media capabilities of MJH Life Sciences to collaboratively bring our organization to the forefront of our target audience, continue to build our reputations as a leader in the field, and raise awareness to our physicians’ dedicated focus. If you’re interested in collaborating with the Optometry Times editorial team and contributing to an article or participating in a video, please contact the partnership lead at Optometry Times: Gabrielle Atchison: gatchison@mjhlifesciences.com. This is a great way to share your expertise and continue to build our brand recognition on a reputable platform!

Looking for Something?

CHECK OUT THE MOA CLASSIFIEDS

---

Optometric Equipment and Furnishings for Sale

**Contact:** Paul Edward, OD  
**Email:** p5edwards6@gmail.com  
**Cell:** 804-725-8808 Please leave a message if not answered! Office: 804-725-2430

Closing my office at the end of December, 2023. All ophthalmic equipment & furnishings for sale. Three (3) exam rooms, pretest, HFA II, FDT, Canon fundus camera, HRT3, portable corneal topographer, etc. Also beautiful Eye Designs ViewPoint display cases at great price.

Detailed list and pictures provided upon request. **Everything available at the end of December 2023.** Feel free to call, leave a message or email me.
VSP Vision would like to thank you for providing excellent patient care.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you for continuing to meet the needs of your patients and communities this year. As 2023 comes to an end, VSP Vision™ remains focused on supporting you and your long-term success with choices and resources to help you meet your business goals today and into the future.

Cheers to you and your families as we usher in 2024!
3 New Laws in Texas that Rein in Vision Plans
Three new laws have been enacted in Texas to provide much-needed assistance for optometrists navigating vision plans and medical insurance plans.

‘Inadequate to meet demand’ : Report spotlights declining ophthalmology workforce as America’s eye health needs grow
Ophthalmology’s report paints a stark contrast between the two eye care physician workforces as the surgical specialty’s workforce adequacy plummets to second worst in coming decade.

131 vision-friendly holiday gifts for children
For several years, Kellye Knueppel, O.D., who practices in Wisconsin, has published a list of toys and games that can support the development of children’s vision. Find out what’s on her “nice” list.

2023 in review: A review of FDA approvals in eye care this year
Eye care witnessed a transformative year with 11 FDA approvals. As the year concludes, there remains a robust pipeline of drugs, setting high expectations for continued advancements in ophthalmological care in 2024 and beyond.