

TUESDAY TALK

MARYLAND OPTOMETRY'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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!



— *Who we are*

It's All About VISION



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.

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— *InsEyed Scoop*

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— *MOA Fall Conference Recap*

Camaraderie, Learning, Networking & More!



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!](#)

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References: 1. In a clinical trial to evaluate on-eye performance of TOTAL30[®] for Astigmatism lenses where n=60; Alcon data on file, 2021.
2. Based on a clinical trial where n=18; Alcon data on file, 2021.
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— *Fostering Leadership*

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 -- (3hrs 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](#).



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— 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!



— 2023 New Members

Welcome to the MOA Family!

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

EXTENDED THROUGH DECEMBER 2024!



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§ Compared to a single vision 1 day lens over a 3-year period.

1. Chamberlain P et al. A 3-year Randomized Clinical Trial of MiSight® Lenses for Myopia Control. *Optom Vis Sci.* 2019;96(8):556-567

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— Focusing On Young ODs

A Message from MOA Young OD Chair

Judy Hu, O.D.

As I reflect on finishing my second year as the MOA Young OD Chair, I cannot overstate the importance of comradery amongst doctors and young ODs. Through the MOA, I have been provided with tremendous support in my endeavors and equally they have celebrated all my achievements. My wish is for all young doctors to realize the numerous advantages of being involved with the association early on in their careers.



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.

— *Introducing Our New Membership Committee Chair*

Katharine Funari, O.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.O.

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.

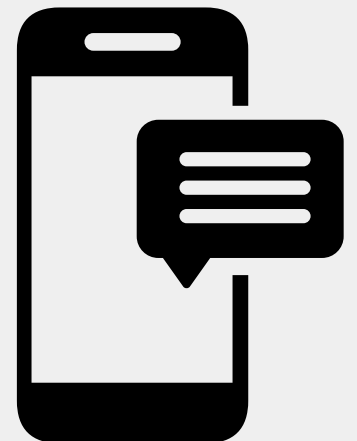


If you have concerns or questions for Dr. Funari or would like information on how to become more involved and join the membership committee please contact membershipchair@marylandoptometry.org

— *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.

A promotional graphic for Dr. Usiwoma Abugo, M.D. It features a photo of Dr. Abugo on the left. The background is blue with white and yellow text. At the top, it says "Now Accepting New Patients call to schedule 410.821.9490". Below that, "USIWOMA ABUGO, M.D." is written in large white letters. Underneath, it says "DIRECTOR OF OCULOFACIAL PLASTICS & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY & AESTHETICS". At the bottom, there is a logo for "AVOID THE GROUP" and a yellow button that says "CLICK FOR DR. ABUGO'S PROFILE & SERVICES".

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— Member Benefits

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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 access 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.



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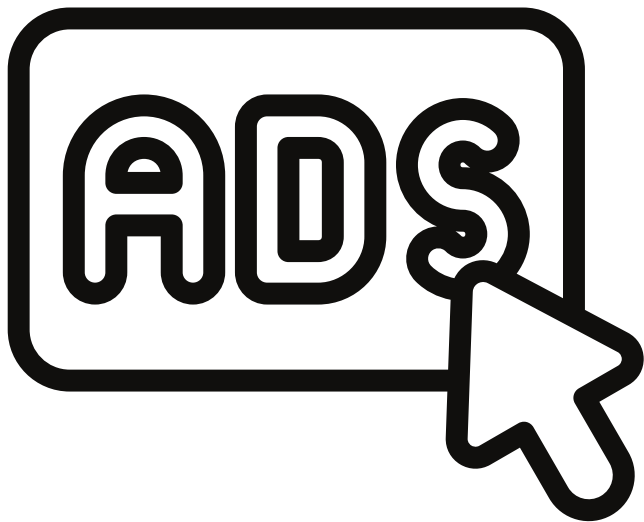
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— *Share Your Expertise*



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.



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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!



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NEWSFLASH

[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.

