

# Berkeley Optometry



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

University of California, Berkeley  
School of Optometry

Full Report is available @ <https://optometry.berkeley.edu/governance/annual-report/>

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS: FACULTY/STUDENTS

John Flanagan is Dean of the School of Optometry for a five-year term that began June 1, 2014. Chris Wilmer is Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Rick Van Sluyters is Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Gunilla Haegerstrom-Portnoy is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Monica Porter is the Assistant Dean for Operations, Kristen Williams is the Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations and Meg St John is Assistant Dean for Admissions, Student Affairs. Eric Craypo is the Director of Communications.

### Faculty and Alumni

Two new faculty members joined us officially in July 2017: Assistant Professor William Tuten, OD, PhD and Assistant Professor Emily Cooper, PhD. The School now has 35 full time clinical faculty members with a total faculty FTE count of 77 (including optical faculty members), which translates to 112 people since many clinical faculty members are part-time.

### Optometry Faculty Research

From July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, optometry faculty members generated \$9.4M in direct cost funding for 56 different projects. Most projects are 3-5 years and funding was received from various federal agencies (NIH, NSF, DOD) as well as private foundations and industry. Basic research accounted for 59%, clinical and translational research received 27.7% and 6.4% for training.

The NEI T32 Training Grant has been continuously funded for 41 years, and the Core Grant has been funded for 25 years. The School of Optometry has one other research training grant for optometry students (T35) which is now in year 25. The T32 and T35 grants were successfully refunded for another 5 years for August 2018 (T32) and May 2019 (T35) and the Core grant was also successfully refunded for 5 years in Sept 2018.

### Professional Student Performance

NBEO Part	Berkeley Pass Rate	National Pass Rate
<b>I: Applied Basic Science</b> March 2018 (3 <sup>rd</sup> year students) Class of 2018	80.9%	67.1%
<b>II: Patient Assessment and Management</b> December 2017 (4 <sup>th</sup> year students) Class of 2018	96.8%	86.3%
<b>III: Clinical Skills</b> Fall 2017-Spring 2018 (4th year students) Class of 2018	90.5%	76.0%
<b>Ultimate Pass Rate</b> Passed all 3 parts before graduation (graduating class) Class of 2018	98.4%	

## **ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE**

### **Staff**

The office is currently staffed by Assistant Dean Meg St. John, Associate Director Kait Guthrie, Associate Director Carissa Caloud, and Coordinator, Nhung Nguyen.

### **Recruitment: Admissions Statistics**

We enrolled 63 new OD students in Fall 2018. Our quality remains high, as reflected by the first year Class of 2022 who had a median OAT AA = 350 and an average Biology/Chemistry/Physics (BCP) GPA = 3.48.

### **Diversity Outreach**

Our National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) chapter is thriving. NOSA members at Berkeley Optometry continue to host instructional workshops to teach optometric Spanish and assist with vision screenings in underserved communities. NOSA also organized and presented for the ASAO at summer visits, targeting underrepresented minority high school and middle school students to learn about STEM fields.

### **National Student Leadership Conference**

The School of Optometry hosted four groups of 150 high school students from the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) in July and August each year. The conference aims to broaden the horizons of top-notch high school students, from rising sophomores to seniors, who are interested in careers in health and medicine.

### **Opto-Camp**

In 2006, the Admissions and Student Affairs Office launched "Opto-Camp." The goal of Opto-Camp is to present an "in residence" experience that will provide participants with opportunities to learn about the profession of optometry and the process of becoming an optometrist. Historically, at least half of the attendees are first-generation college students and students from low-income households.

Berkeley Optometry is seeing an increasing yield of Opto-Campers into the professional degree program, starting with 2 from the inaugural 2006 Opto-Camp and increasing to 15-16 in the last two years. Furthermore, each year, admittees who were former Opto-Campers are being selected to receive prestigious Graduate Opportunity Program (GOP) Fellowships from the Graduate Division.

### **Career Management Conference**

All first-year OD students take "Optometric Career Development," a graduate course in professional development offered by the Associate Dean, Assistant Dean and ASAO staff members. This course includes a one-day Career Management Conference in which students hear from subject matter experts on subjects as personal branding, LinkedIn, StrengthsFinder, and professionalism.

## **Scholarships and Awards**

The School of Optometry offered its OD students a wide range of both external scholarships and internal awards to help make the cost of an optometric education more affordable and accessible, and to recognize student accomplishments. In addition to increasing the amount of Departmental Awards, the School committed to offering an additional GOP Fellowship for the upcoming admissions cycle. These GOPs provide a \$30,000 scholarship for the first year of study to incoming graduate students whose backgrounds, life experiences, and/or work contribute to diversity within their discipline or in the graduate community at large.

## **Professional Student Support Funds**

Thanks to the generous support of faculty and alumni, Professional Student Support Funds (PSSF's) were awarded to 141 current students in the Spring of 2018.

## **Departmental Aid**

It is the goal of Berkeley Optometry to award its current students, in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above, departmental aid as available. Students are awarded a flat amount depending on their class year and residency status, ranging from \$4,500 to \$10,500. This year, the School made extra efforts to recognize the increasing cost of attendance and increased the departmental awards given to each student.

## **The White Coat Ceremony**

To celebrate the achievements of the second-year class and their transition into the third year, Berkeley Optometry hosts the "White Coat Ceremony" at the end of Summer Clinic.

## **Social Media**

We have over 2,000 friends on our Berkeley Optometry Facebook page and have added an Instagram account that is gaining momentum. We began this year to place social media ads through Facebook. These targeted campaigns were in support of the Opto-Camp program and will continue through the 2019 calendar year.

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

### **Administration**

Content for Continuing Education is organized by the Continuing Education Committee, chaired by Dean John Flanagan with faculty members, Drs. Patsy Harvey, Harry Green, Anne Tasaki, and Pam Satjawatcharaphong. Lyuda Martello is the Director of Continuing Education & Events and Quelani Penland is the Events and Program Coordinator. The office continues to provide a variety of high-quality courses for optometrists to expand their knowledge as well as fulfill the requirements of licensure renewal by the California State Board of Optometry.

## **Accreditation for Participants**

In 2018, the UC Berkeley Optometry CE Office oversaw and accredited over 22,000 hours of continuing education for which it issued over 3,500 accreditation letters and certificates, making it the largest CE program at an optometry school in North America.

## **CE Programs**

The CE Programs are continually expanding to meet the ever-changing needs of today's optometrists and the modified certification requirements. Programs include: Annual Berkeley Practicum, the Morgan-Sarver Symposium, Alumni Weekend including the Golden Conference, Annual Berkeley Glaucoma Day, Glaucoma Grand Rounds, and the Berkeley Optometry 16-hour Grand Rounds Course.

## **Additional CE Courses and Events**

In addition to their primary "live programs," the CE office also participated in accrediting, administering, marketing, and facilitating other UC Berkeley Optometry CE courses, including Oxyopia, b-Talks, and Resident Days.

## **CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Berkeley Clinical Research Center (CRC) is two-fold: (1) to explore new models and strategies for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of ocular anomalies by conducting patient-based clinical studies/trials as well as translational research and, (2) to provide training for young professionals who are interested in, or want to pursue careers in, clinical research.

### **Research**

In 2018, we continue to collaborate with Cooper Vision Inc, JOHNSON & JOHNSON VISION CARE, INC and Essilor. We have also established new collaborative relationships with Orinda Pharma, Glia LLC, and Viewpoint Therapeutics. As evidenced in our publications (11 published manuscripts and 13 paper/posters presentations at various domestic and international meetings), the CRC research team under Professor Meng Lin's leadership continues to conduct research studies to further our understanding in the mechanisms responsible for tear film stabilization, identifying factors affecting post-contact-lens aqueous tear mixing as well as assessing and developing diagnostic tools for evaporative dry eye.

## **DEVELOPMENT & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

### **Donors**

Fiscal Year 2018 saw both an increase in donors and friends as well as the expansion of areas of investment of philanthropic dollars. Berkeley Optometry alumni, students, patients and friends made new gifts and pledges adding up to over \$2.4 million. The total number of new donors increased significantly and helped to make 2018 a year of outstanding support. Alumni donations are at an all-time high.

## **Camaraderie**

In 2018, Berkeley Optometry's Development and Alumni Team hosted 16 events in 9 different cities and 4 states. This year, over 2,000 people attended these events, which made for a very successful year.

Our Annual All-Alumni CE and Berkeley Optometry Celebration event sold out in record time with record attendance at the Celebration Dinner. The CE Conference was headlined by the Thomas Peters Memorial Lecturer, Dr. Robin Chalmers. Dean John Flanagan was able to bestow the Alumnus of the Year Award on Dr. Lewis Reich, widely recognized by his colleagues and peers for his tremendous influence on the practice of optometry. The class celebrating their 25th reunion presents the Annual Mert Flom Teaching Award. This past year the class of 1993 selected Dr. Robert Di Martino as the teacher with the most positive influence on their optometric careers. Dr. Di Martino is most deserving! Dean Flanagan was also able to honor Dr. Deanna Alexander with the Michael G. Harris Service Award for outstanding service to the school of optometry. We were thrilled to see over 500 people in attendance at our celebration event. The Cal Band even joined us to help celebrate those in their reunion years.

## **Magazine**

The 4th edition of our award-winning magazine features articles on using artificial intelligence to prevent blindness, what happens to your eyes on Mars, eye care in India, an interview with alumnus Dr. Tim Trinh; and a report from Berkeley Optometry's PhD student Kaleb Asfaha, who is applying his years of analytical chemistry experience and mass spectrometry skills to opening a pharmaceutical-grade lab capable of certifying the safety of legal cannabis in California.

## **Volunteers**

The Board of the Berkeley Alumni Association (BOAA) continues to drive alumni events, design student/alumni interaction, advise Dean Flanagan on top priorities for the school and the profession and serve as Berkeley Optometry Ambassadors beyond the walls of Minor Hall.

Throughout the year, we had an impressive number of alumni volunteers give of their time, talents and means to work with students and the Dean for the betterment of the Berkeley Optometry community. We hope to continue to expand this program in 2019 to create a broader network of alumni volunteers.

## **FONG OPTOMETRY & HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY**

The Fong Library is one of two science libraries in the Life and Health Sciences (LHS) Division of the University Library system. Our division structure extends the information services available to the School of Optometry and the Vision Science program through shared services, expertise, and operations among the Optometry and Bioscience, Natural Resources, & Public Health libraries. Collections include 17,000+ volumes and 37 serial titles.

The Library staff includes 1 full-time librarian, 1 full-time paraprofessional, and 1.5 FTE student employees. The Fong Library reports administratively to the Head of the Life and Health Sciences Division.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

Faculty were the recipients of prestigious awards: **Marty Banks**, *Tillyer Award*, and elected as *Fellow Member of The Optical Society of America*; and **Jazzi Junge**, *Young OD of the Year*, and *John N. Schoen Ezell Fellow*.

## OPTOMETRY CLINICS

### Leadership

In June 2018, Eyewear Center Co-Director George Russell retired after 12 years with the school. Fellow Eyewear Center Co-Director Vicki Rich stepped into the role of Eyewear Center Director. In June 2018, Bethany Zinn was promoted to Patient Services Staff Supervisor. In August 2018, Mayra Canela joined our team as a Patient Services Staff Supervisor. In November 2018, Angelica (Angie) Gonzalez joined the clinic leadership team as a Patient Services Supervisor.

### New Clinic Faculty

The clinical faculty team required a number of new hires for academic year 2018-2019. A highly qualified pool of newly graduated residents made up the bulk of the hires. This group brings a diverse skill set based on their advanced optometric residency training and experience in multi-disciplinary settings. Returning and new OD Clinical Faculty are: Dr. Siavash Assar (Primary Care Clinic); Dr. Dara Auyeung (Primary Care Contact Lens Clinic and our community eye clinics); Dr. Nicholas Chan (Primary Care Clinic); Dr. Celia Gong (Myopia Control Clinic and Advanced Contact Lens Clinic); Dr. Emily Gorski (Low Vision Clinic, Primary Care Clinic and the California School for the Blind); Dr. Sandra Harpster (Primary Care Clinic and in our community based clinics); Dr. Katherine Lai (Binocular Vision Clinic); Dr. Sarah Kochik (Myopia Control Clinic); Dr. Karen Molina (Primary Care Clinic, Advanced Contact Lenses Clinic and Myopia Control Clinic); Dr. Teresa Nguyen (Primary Care Clinic and our clinic located in the UC Santa Cruz student health center); Dr. Crystal Wang (Primary Care Clinic and the Low Vision Clinic at the Lighthouse in San Francisco); Dr. Meng-Hua Wu (Primary Care Clinic and our Refractive Surgery Center), Optical Faculty: Don Knauss joined the clinical faculty with numerous years of experience in the optical industry.

### Faculty Changes

The following faculty have been converted to without salary appointments during 2018: Dr. Patrick Clark. Optical faculty member and Eyewear Center Co-Director George Russell retired. Optical faculty member Mindy Lewis left UC Berkeley. Tom Rowley, MD, general ophthalmology, retired this year after 25 years of service to Berkeley Optometry.

## **Faculty Development and Support**

### **Clinical Staff and Faculty Meetings**

The clinic continued to hold “vertical meetings” in 2018 for clinical staff and clinical faculty to convene with their respective supervisors, managers, and/or department chairs for dedicated meeting time. This past year there were 5 vertical meetings with several cross functional and cross training opportunities.

### **American Academy of Optometry Chicago**

There was a strong showing at the American Academy of Optometry meeting in San Antonio, TX in November 2018 with 42 in-house and external faculty attending our clinical faculty meeting. Several clinical faculty members presented lectures, symposia, papers, and workshops. In addition, six faculty achieved their Fellowship (Dr. Angela Shahbazian, Dr. Celia Gong, Dr. Karen Molina, Dr. Melissa Valdellon, Dr. Siavash Assar, and Dr. Meng-Hua Wu) and one achieved Diplomate status (Dr. Mika Moy).

### **bTalks, Optometry Discussion Series**

Monthly bTalk lectures have continued to thrive in 2018 with discussions on current topics in varying specialties. About 20-25 doctors/residents and ~10 students attend each lecture and the positive feedback continues.

### **Health and Wellness**

In fall 2018, Dr. Yoshiyama organized the third annual flu shot clinic for all clinical staff and faculty at the Minor Hall campus location. In collaboration with the Occupational Health Department at University Health Services (UHS), the optometry clinic provided this free service to help protect our clinic employees and the patients they serve. In summer 2018, Dr. Yoshiyama established a tuberculosis (TB) screening policy for the Optometry Clinic Staff and Faculty. In October 2018, Dr. Yoshiyama held a faculty and staff development training session on the topic of Airborne Transmissible Diseases (ATD) prevention, triage, and reporting.

### **Continuing Education**

The twenty-second offering of the Glaucoma Grand Rounds course was held on March 28-29, 2018. There were 43 attendees in the program. As many California optometrists have obtained glaucoma certification, there is less demand for the program. It is likely that the course will not be offered in the future.

### **Clinical Curriculum**

In summer 2018, the Assistant Clinic Director continued to lead a classroom case-based seminar series, a component of the 430A Clinics Course. The course was administered in real-time online. Clinical questions posed to the class by each guest lecturer were answered by students on their laptop or mobile device in the classroom, allowing students to practice their clinical decision-making and differential diagnostic abilities in a manner similar to clinic, but with more time devoted to group discussion and lecturer feedback. The series continues to feature lecturers from our clinical faculty,

each sharing their clinical insights with students and encouraging active clinical thinking.

Ongoing online glaucoma curriculum continued throughout the summer, fall, and spring terms of the 430 clinic course for the third year clinicians. This online glaucoma material enhanced students' foundational glaucoma knowledge prior to entering the posterior segment disease course in the spring, where additional instruction emphasized the clinical management of glaucoma.

## **Changes to Clinical Training Sites/Externships**

The Berkeley Outpatient Clinic is a clinical partnership with UC San Francisco Ophthalmology and was started in August of 2018. The outpatient clinic is a collaboration with John Muir Health and UCSF Health. In May 2018, we started our relationship with The Byers Eye Institute. It is located near Stanford University and is a free standing, premier medical and surgical facility dedicated to combating blindness and preserving vision. In October of 2018, we ended our clinical relationship with Petaluma Community Health.

## **Changes to Clinical Operations**

In 2018, a priority was placed on analyzing patient services staff efficiency and productivity. The primary goal was not to reduce direct labor costs, but to increase patient satisfaction and allow staff to focus on other critical clinic priorities. One of the most significant steps in this direction was the implementation of check in kiosks.

## **Equipment and Facilities Improvements**

Efforts were made in 2018 to maintain and improve our facility. During the course of 2018, the vast majority of patient exam and treatment spaces at Minor Hall were painted, as well as the hallways.

## **RESIDENCIES**

The optometry residency program at the School of Optometry seeks to recruit and admit the best qualified post-graduate optometrists and provide them with advanced clinical education and concentrated clinical experience in specialty areas of optometry. This mentored educational and clinical experience will prepare optometrists for life-long scholarship in patient care, education, and optometric leadership.

### **Administration**

The Residency Program is administered by Kuniyoshi Kanai, OD, FAAO, Director of On-Campus Residency Programs, and Christina Wilmer, OD, FAAO, Director of Affiliated Residency Programs.

### **Current Programs**

The on-campus and affiliated residency programs include the following areas of emphasis and residency training positions.

## UC Berkeley Optometry

One position in each of the following areas.

Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation	Deborah Lee, OD, FAAO
Cornea and Contact Lenses	Pam Satjawatcharaphong, OD, FAAO
Ocular Disease	Carl Jacobsen, OD, FAAO
Low Vision / Ocular Disease	Marlena Chu, OD, FAAO
Pediatrics / Primary Care	Deborah Orel-Bixler, PhD, OD, FAAO
Primary Care / Contact Lenses	Christina Wilmer, OD, FAAO
Primary Care / Community Health	Meredith Whiteside, OD, FAAO

## Veterans Affairs Central California Health Care System Fresno

Primary Care Optometry (3 position)  
Residency Coordinator: Deana Lum, OD, FAAO

## Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System

Primary Care/Low Vision (3 positions)  
Primary Care/Brain Injury (1 position)  
Residency Coordinator: David Yang, OD, FAAO

## Sierra Nevada Health Care System Reno

Primary Care Optometry (2 positions)  
Residency Coordinator: Marla Plecha, OD, FAAO

## Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Francisco

Primary Care Optometry (3 Positions)  
Residency Coordinator: Andrew Mick, OD, FAAO

## Current/Past Residents

The residency application process is very competitive. All residents match through the ORMatch process. All the positions were filled this year.

## Shared Educational Components

In addition to patient care, all residents participate in the following educational program components. These are required for successful completion of the program and the awarding of the residency program certificate.

## **ACOE Site Visit**

In April 2017, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Francisco (SFVA) Primary Care Residency and the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System (PAVA) Primary Care/Low Vision Rehabilitation Residency underwent ACOE site visit for their residency programs. As a result, both programs are fully accredited without any recommendations or suggestions. The next site visit is scheduled in 2025.

Berkeley Optometry runs a short-term (10 weeks) summer research-training program for OD students — the T35 training program — whose goal is to introduce talented students to clinical and/or translational research by way of developing their interest, awareness, and enthusiasm for a career in biomedical or behavioral research. Training is provided within the laboratories of 23 faculty mentors in the School of Optometry, who are also involved in the training of pre-doctoral research students and postdoctoral fellows from the Graduate PhD Program in Vision Science.

Optometry schools from across the country are targets of our recruitment efforts aimed at attracting a diverse pool of talented health professional students to our short-term training program. Our grant now supports 12 trainees and in 2017, there were 24 applicants, including one each from Southern California College of Optometry, College of Optometry of Pacific University and State University of New York College of Optometry.

The long-term goal is to encourage clinicians to pursue advanced research training after completion of their professional training, preparation for careers in academia, or industry as clinician scientists. As a stepping-stone to these research careers, we encourage UC Berkeley trainees to enroll in research honors after completing this summer training program.

## **Research Exchange Program (MyOpIA)**

A new summer research-training collaboration program has been established between the **University College of Southeast Norway (USN)**, Kongsberg, Optometry Program and University of California Berkeley (UCB) School of Optometry. As a 2-year pilot program, MyOpIA is funded by a grant from Norway and ran for the first time in 2017. The program introduces professional Optometry students to clinical and/or translational research. Through an 8-week research internship between the 2 Universities, students are introduced to hands-on research related to myopia and refractive error development, backed by research-related training through face-to-face and on-line seminars/workshops.

The faculty mentors at each site and grant co-PIs, both involved in myopia research, are Professor Christine Wildsoet at UCB and Professor Rigmor Baraas at USN. Further mentoring support for the trainees is provided by 2 PhD graduate students, one at each site -- Elise Harb from UCB and Lene Aarvelta Hagen from USN. For the 2018 summer research exchange program, there were 10 applicants from UCB's Optometry program and 7 applicants from USN's Optometry program.

## **OPTOMETRIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

Comprised of student representatives from each class, the University of California Optometric Student Association (UCOSA) represents the interests of students to the faculty. UCOSA also organizes vision care services through student-sponsored activities, student activities, textbook sales, and publication of the Berkeley Study Guide for national board exams.

## **VISION SCIENCE**

In 2018, 42-43 graduate students were enrolled in the Vision Science Graduate Group. Rich diversity in academic backgrounds among its' members -- including neuroscience, biology, engineering, computer science, psychology, optometry, and others -- is a hallmark of the group. Postdoctoral fellows are an important group of scientist in the program's research laboratories and in 2018 the program appointed the first faculty advisor (Teresa Puthussery) for postdoctoral affairs and with funding from the Dean postdocs now hold bi-weekly morning coffee socials as an opportunity for meeting and interacting with their peers in the program. 2018 also marked the founding of the first Vision Science Graduate Student Government and the appointment of a VS student president (Angie Godinez), vice president for finance ( Elizabeth Lawler) and vice president of administration (Teresa Canas Bajo ). The Dean also supported and funded the first year of monthly faculty hosted VS socials that are organized by the students as an important venue to bring together and promote interactions of the diverse VS research community.