

Berkeley Optometry



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

University of California, Berkeley
School of Optometry

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

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS: FACULTY/STUDENTS

John Flanagan, Dean of the School of Optometry, successfully completed his five-year term on 6/30/2019 and was renewed for a second five-year term that will end on 6/30/24. Dr. Chris Wilmer is Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Dr. Nancy McNamara replaced Dr. Rick Van Sluyters as Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Dr. Gunilla Haegerstrom-Portnoy is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Monica Porter was promoted to Senior Assistant Dean for Operations, Kristen Williams is the Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations and Meg St. John is Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs. Eric Craypo is the Director of Communications.

Faculty and Alumni

Dr. Rick Van Sluyters, Dr. Jeffrey Ko, Dr. Dennis Burger and Dr. Wayne Verdon retired in June 2019. The School successfully recruited a new faculty member who will officially join us in July 2020. The School now has 36 full time clinical faculty members with a total faculty FTE count of 73, which translates to 100 people since many clinical faculty members are part-time.

Optometry Faculty Research

From July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, optometry faculty members generated \$9.5M in direct cost funding. Most projects are 3-5 years and funding was received from various federal agencies (NIH, NSF, DOD) as well as private foundations and industry.

The NEI T32 Training Grant has been continuously funded for 42 years, and the Core Grant has been funded for 26 years. The School of Optometry has one other research training grant for optometry students (T35) which is now in year 26. 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 (First Time Takers Only)	Berkeley Pass Rate	National Pass Rate
I: Applied Basic Science March 2019 (3 rd year students) Class of 2020	82.8%	74.7%
II: Patient Assessment and Management December 2018 (4 th year students) Class of 2019	93.7%	87.6%
III: Clinical Skills Fall 2018-Spring 2019 (4th year students) Class of 2019	92.2%	83.9%
Ultimate Pass Rate Passed all 3 parts before graduation (graduating class) Class of 2018	93.8%	92.7%

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, Eurie Nam.

Recruitment: Admissions Statistics

We enrolled 68 new OD students in Fall 2019. Our quality remains high, as reflected by the first year Class of 2022 who had a median OAT AA = 354 and an average Biology/Chemistry/Physics (BCP) GPA = 3.4.

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.

Opto-Camp

In 2006, the Admissions and Student Affairs Office launched "Opto-Camp." The goal of Opto-Camp is to provide in-depth information about Optometry as a career track to those who are underrepresented in the profession and/or first-generation college students.

This year we expanded our camp to include 60 campers. 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 20% in the last year. Furthermore, each year, admittees who were former Opto-Campers are being selected to receive prestigious Graduate Opportunity Program (GOP) Fellowships from the Graduate Division.

National Student Leadership Conference

The School of Optometry continues to partner with the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC). 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.

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 119 current students.

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. 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 2,200 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 2019, the UC Berkeley Optometry CE Office oversaw and accredited over 17,500 hours of continuing education for which it issued over 3,100 accreditation letters and certificates.

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, 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

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 2019, our research collaborations remain strong as evidenced in our publications. 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 2019 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 \$3.0 million. The total number of new donors increased significantly and helped to make 2019 a year of outstanding support. Alumni donations are at an all-time high.

Camaraderie

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. Jorge Cuadros, OD, PhD. The Alumnus of the Year was awarded posthumously to Dr. Marvin Poston, Class of 1939. Dr. Dar Fong received the Annual Mert Flom Teaching Award from the class celebrating their 25th reunion. Dr. Deanna Alexander and Dr. Ken Alimento received the Michael G. Harris Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to the school of optometry.

Magazine

The 5th edition of our award-winning magazine features articles on the proliferation of deep fake images and how this phenomena is threatening our democracy and pushing the limits of human visual perception; a piece on the efforts of Dr. Abraham Bromberg ('69) to fundamentally change the way optometrists are trained in Mexico; our own round-up of the top ten most iconic frames in history; and much more.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Faculty were the recipients of prestigious awards: **Marty Banks**, elected to the *National Academy of Sciences*; **Austin Roorda**, *ARVO Gold Fellow*; **Clayton Radke**, recipient of the *Ruben Medal* from the *International Society for Contact Lens Research*; and **Teresa Puthussery**, *Outstanding Membership of GSIs*.

OPTOMETRY CLINICS

Leadership

In June 2019, Eyewear Center Co-Director Vicki Rich was officially named Eyewear Center Director. In April 2019, Angelica (Angie) Gonzalez was promoted to Patient Services Manager, Cory Svean joined the team as a Patient Services Staff Supervisor. In July 2019, Shirley Guinn joined the team as a Patient Services Staff Supervisor.

New Clinic Faculty

The clinical faculty team acquired a number of new hires for academic year 2019-2020. Returning and new OD Clinical Faculty are: Dr. Patrick Clark returns to Berkeley Optometry providing direct patient care in the Clark Clinic and teaches in primary care and Alameda Health Systems Eastmont Wellness Clinic. Dr. Nguyen Tran is a graduate of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and completed a Pediatric/Vision Therapy/Neuro-Optometry residency in 2018 from the Southern California College of Optometry. Dr. Joey Hsia is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at UCSF. He joins our staff as an MD in the Ocular Disease Clinic. Dr. Nancy Carteron, rheumatology, UCSF adjunct faculty joins the optometry faculty and participates in the multi-disciplinary Sjogren clinic. Dr. Ava Wu, oral medicine, UCSF adjunct joins the optometry faculty and participates in the multi-disciplinary Sjogren clinic.

Faculty Development and Support

American Academy of Optometry Chicago

There was a strong showing at the American Academy of Optometry meeting in Orlando, FL in November 2019 with 31 in-house and external faculty attending our clinical faculty meeting. Several clinical faculty members presented lectures, symposia, papers, and workshops. In addition, Dr. Crystal Wang achieved her fellowship this year.

bTalks, Optometry Discussion Series

Monthly bTalk lectures have continued to thrive in 2019 with discussions on current topics in varying specialties. About 20-25 doctors/residents and ~10 students attend each lecture and the positive feedback continues.

Digital Health

The Digital Health Clinic (DHC) is a telemedicine program that works with 180+ clinics around the State of California to screen diabetic patients for sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy. Due to this great need in the community, DHC works mainly in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Health Centers (RHC) where the need is greatest. The DHC is also active in teaching optometry students and optometric residents in telemedicine.

Clinical Curriculum

The Berkeley Optometry clinics provide a diverse clinical experience for students in primary care and specialty clinics. Third year students are in patient care approximately 3-4 days a week rotating through primary care, eyewear center, and various specialty clinics. During their first session in clinic, third year students work more closely with instructors. During this summer session, there is usually a 3:1 ratio of students to instructors. All other primary care/contact lens clinics have a 4:1 student to instructor ratio. Throughout the year, some primary care clinics had both third and fourth year students with fourth year students serving as mentors to their peers. Specialty clinics allow for more direct attention between students and doctors. In this setting, doctors will see patients directly or oversee 1-2 students examining one patient. Our local external community clinics for fourth year students also have doctors overseeing 1-3 students at a time.

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

Vandenberg Air Force Base requested an indefinite hold on the student externship program due to the implementation of a new EMR system. It is hoped that the program will resume in May 2021. We started our relationship with Crownpoint HealthCare Facility, an Indian Health Service, in May 2019. The VA Muskogee externship was to have started in May 2019, however, was delayed to fall due to tornados and flooding. Dr. Joan Browne replaced Dr. Kristin Brennan at VA Sierra Nevada effective June 2019. Dr. Chelsia Park replaced Dr. Desiree Cadiz at VA Livermore effective October 2019.

Equipment and Facilities Improvements

In 2019, the out of service freight elevator that served the clinic and the rest of Minor Addition was replaced with a completely new and modernized freight elevator. New clinic signage,

elevator wrap and kiosk privacy enhancements were added to improve patient flow and experience. In addition plans are being made to refresh our eyewear center with new furniture casements and flooring with the goal of the eyewear center being “refreshed” in 2020. Thanks to generous donations from our student association and from Haag-Streit USA our teaching clinic has been almost completely refitted with top-of-the-line equipment for our students to learn on.

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 positions)

Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System

Primary Care/Low Vision (3 positions)

Primary Care/Brain Injury (1 position)

Sierra Nevada Health Care System Reno

Primary Care Optometry (2 positions)

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Francisco

Primary Care Optometry (3 Positions)

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 21 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.

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.

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 2019, 42 graduate students were enrolled in the Vision Science Graduate program. In May 2019, the Vision Science program conferred 15 PhDs for the class of 2019 — the highest number of graduates in the program's history. Four of the new graduates hold OD degrees as well. Rich diversity in academic backgrounds among its' members -- including neuroscience, biology, engineering, computer science, psychology, optometry, and others -- is a hallmark of the group. Teresa Puthussery continues in her role as the faculty advisor for postdoctoral fellows and affairs.