ACADEMIC PROGRAMS: FACULTY/STUDENTS

John Flanagan, Dean of the School of Optometry, successfully completed his second year of his second term on 6/30/2021. Dr. Chris Wilmer is Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, while Dr. Nancy McNamara is now the new Associate Dean Academic Affairs (Dr. Gunilla Haegerstrom-Portnoy has retired), and Dr. Mika Moy has been named the new Associate Dean of Admission and Student Affairs. Monica Porter remains the Senior Assistant Dean for Operations, while Ciel Mahoney is currently the interim Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations (with recruitment for permanent replacement of Kristen Williams is underway) and Mike Hoffshire has replaced Jessica Rivers as Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs. Eric Craypo remains the Director of Communications.

Faculty and Alumni
The following Clinical Faculty members retired on 6/30/2021: Drs. Robert Dister, John Corzine, Dennis Fong, Michelle Hoff, Nicholas Kerry, Cheslyn Gan. Ladder Rank faculty members, Drs. Martin Banks and Gunilla Haegerstrom-Portnoy retired on 6/30/2021 as well. The School now has 99 faculty of whom 52.6 are full time clinical faculty members, 22.4 part-time clinical faculty for a total faculty FTE count of 75.1.

Optometry Faculty Research
From July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, optometry faculty members generated $7.7M in direct cost funding. Most projects are 3-5 years and funding was received from various federal agencies (NIH, NSF, and DOD) as well as private foundations and industry.

The NEI T32 Training Grant has been continuously funded for 44 years, and the Core Grant has been funded for 28 years. The School of Optometry has one other research training grant for optometry students (T35) which is now in year 28. 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. We are putting in a competitive renewal for the NEI T32 Training Grant in May 2022 and a competitive renewal for the Core Grant in September 2022.

ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE

Staff
The office is staffed by Associate Dean of Admissions & Student Affairs, A. Mika Moy, OD, FAAO, Assistant Dean of Admissions & Student Affairs, Mike Hoffshire, PhD, Assistant Director of Student Affairs, Sonia Moctezuma, MA, Assistant Director of Admissions, Patrik Donahue, MPH, Coordinator of Optometry Program Erica Diffenderfer, and Coordinator for Vision Science & Residency, Valerie Moss, M.S.ED.

Recruitment: Admissions Statistics
We received 307 applications and matriculated 67 new Doctor of Optometry students in Fall 2021. Our quality remains high as reflected by the first year Class of 2025 demographics, OAT scores and GPAs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
Student Performance
Our students perform higher than the national pass rates for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NBEO Part</th>
<th>Berkeley Pass Rate</th>
<th>National Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(First Time Takers Only)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I: Applied Basic Science</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II: Patient Assessment and Management</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
<td>89.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III: Clinical Skills</td>
<td>89.1%</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultimate Pass Rate</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2021</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduation
Our 4 year graduation rate for the Class of 2017 (graduation year 2021) is above 90%.

Scholarships and Awards
The School of Optometry offered its Doctor of Optometry 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 number of Departmental Awards, the School committed to offering an additional GOP Fellowship for the upcoming admissions cycle. A total of seven awards were issued in fall 2020. 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 115 current students.

Departmental Aid
It is the goal of Berkeley Optometry to award its current students departmental aid as available. Students are awarded a flat amount depending on their class year and residency status.

Student Organization(s)
In conjunction with students, Admissions & Student Affairs advises and supports over 15 Doctor of Optometry and 5 student organizations in Vision Science. These organizations support student development and leadership, continuing education and professional development opportunities. In particular, our National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) and our Optometric Student Association (UCOSA) continue to lead the way in equity and diversity related efforts.
**Opto-Camp**
In 2006, the Admissions and Student Affairs Office launched "OptoCamp." The goal of OptoCamp 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.

While we continued to host the program virtually due to the Covid19 pandemic, our 16th year (2021) brought 79 campers from across North America to participate in our virtual program. The first week consisted of workshops, student and alumni panels, and virtual eye exams. During the second week, campers presented their group projects, where they had to propose a program, business, or practice that serves a need and creates an impact in the field of Optometry. Examples included creating a diversity pipeline program or creating a private practice model that reaches underserved communities.

**White Coat Ceremony**
Berkeley Optometry & Vision Science hosts the "White Coat Ceremony" prior to the start of their first day of class for the incoming student cohort. The White Coat Ceremony serves as a way to welcome new students into their professional program and future clinic rotations. The key to the ceremony is an oath that students take with family members, school leadership and peers bearing witness. The oath acknowledges their primary role as future professionals in health care. The ceremony and the oath serve to acknowledge the commitment they have made to strive for clinical excellence in order to deliver the best care to your patients, with compassion and empathy. The ceremony is intended to provide students, through the oath, with well-defined guidelines regarding the expectations and responsibilities appropriate for the profession of optometry.

**Media**
We have over 2,500 friends on our Berkeley Optometry Facebook page and 2,600 on our Instagram account. We continue to leverage targeted social media ads through Facebook and google. Our unit is exploring innovative practices, included moving some portions of our admissions process and programs to virtual settings. We continue to have a strong web presence and ensure our Admission materials are up to date.

**Diversity Outreach**
Established in 2020, the Berkeley Optometry Council for DEI and Belonging led by a newly appointed Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, includes representatives from all student groups and units within the Berkeley Optometry community: Senate Faculty, Clinical Faculty, Senior Assistant Dean for Operations, Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, Clinic Staff, Optometry Student Leadership, Vision Science Graduate Students, Postdoctoral Fellows, National Optometric Students Association (NOSA) Presidents, NOA Faculty Representatives, Berkeley Optometry Alumni Representatives, Dean, Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. The mission is to identify and support opportunities to improve diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging within Berkeley Optometry. To fulfill this mission, there are four areas of focus: (i) pipeline and recruitment; (ii) retention and mentoring; (iii) climate; and (iv) measuring success and monitoring accountability. Within each area of focus we will engage with our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and local communities. We will partner with UC Health and national optometric organizations to extend our programmatic goals beyond the Berkeley Campus.

The Berkeley Optometry Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) Student Council was also established in 2020. This council recommends initiatives that weave DEIB into all aspects of optometric education with the goal of improving the campus experience for students of all races, ethnicities, identities and backgrounds. Furthermore, we are involved with the expansion of recruitment and outreach efforts that cultivate a more robust pipeline to our profession, with a focus on underserved communities. The council consists of optometric student representatives from every grade level, and intimately collaborates with the UCBSO general DEIB council, the Black Alumni Mentorship Council, administrators, faculty, staff, vision science graduate students and other optometric student groups such as NOSA.
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.

VISION SCIENCE

In 2021, the Vision Science community welcomed eleven graduate students into the Graduate program after receiving a record number of applications. In May 2021, the Vision Science program conferred five Ph.D. The rich academic backgrounds among its members include neuroscience, biology, engineering, computer science, psychology, optometry, and physics.

The Vision Science Graduate program continues to be led by Dr. Rowland Taylor, who is entering his third year as Vision Science Chair. Dr. Michael Silver (Head Graduate Advisor) and Dr. Austin Roorda (Faculty Advisor: GSI Affairs) continue in their roles on the Vision Science Leadership team. Dr. Emily Cooper took over the role of Faculty Advisor for Postdoc Affairs from Dr. Teresa Puthussery. We thank Dr. Puthussery for her outstanding service as the inaugural Faculty Postdoc advisor.

Our Vision Science faculty have continued their strong record of securing substantial external funding from government and industry partners. External funding continues to be a major strength of the Vision Science program with funding from various federal agencies (NIH, NSF, and DOD), private foundations, and industry. Notably, Dr. Teresa Puthussery joined an exciting new initiative funded through the National Eye Institute's Audacious Goals Initiative (AGI), which evaluates transplanted photoreceptors' survival and functional integration. Additionally, the Roorda Lab published the first paper under the Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry Vision Science name in the Journal of Vision.

Dr. Martin Banks retired as faculty in the Vision Science program. During his time at the School of Optometry and Vision Science, Dr. Banks served as the program’s chair and mentored countless students through their Ph.D. careers. The Vision Science community thanks Dr. Banks for his many years of service and outstanding contributions to the Vision Science program and wishes him a happy retirement.

Our robust student programming continued in 2021, with our first-ever virtual Bay Area Vision Research Day (BAVRD), Vision Science Retreat, and Oxyopia seminar series. In 2022, we plan on reinvigorating our virtual and in-person programming with the help of our new Vision Science & Residency Coordinator, Valerie Moss.

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 Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry

One position in each of the following areas:

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

Veterans Affairs Central California Health Care System Fresno
Ocular Disease (3 positions)

Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System
Ocular Disease – Geriatric Optometry – Low Vision Rehabilitation (3 positions)
Ocular Disease – Neuro Optometry - Brain Injury Rehabilitation (1 position)
Sierra Nevada Health Care System Reno
Ocular Disease (2 positions)
Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Francisco

Ocular Disease (3 Positions)
University of California, San Francisco
Ocular Disease – Primary Care Optometry (2 Positions)

Current/Past Residents
The residency application process is very competitive. All residents match through the ORMatch. 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.

Resident Lecture Series
All residents prepare and present three oral case presentations during the program year. Residency mentors, faculty members, and interns attend the resident lectures during the fall and winter. In the summer the program presents the Resident Forum, which is open to community optometrists as well as affiliated personnel. The 2021 Resident Forum was the 18th annual event. The following were held during the 2021 calendar year.

- Resident Lecture #1 via online - September 25th, 2020
- Resident Lecture #1 via online – February 12th, 2021
- Resident Forum, 18th via online – June 13th, 2021

Resident Paper
All residents must complete a paper of publishable quality on an interesting case, clinical research or literature review on a clinical topic.
Peer-Reviewed Abstract Presentation
Attendance to the major conferences, such as the AAO meeting and Global Specialty Lens Symposium, is not a requirement of the residency program but highly encouraged.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Program Administration
Content for Continuing Education is organized by the Continuing Education Committee, co-chaired by Drs. Anne Tasaki and Pam Satjawatcharaphong with faculty members, Drs. Patsy Harvey, Harry Green, Charlie Ngo, and Dean John Flanagan. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Berkeley Optometry launched a series of Online CE courses and programs in 2020. The office continues to provide a variety of high-quality online and hybrid courses (mostly COPE-approved) for optometrists to expand their knowledge and fulfill their state requirements of licensure renewal.

Accreditation for Participants
In 2021, the UC Berkeley Optometry CE Office hosted 41 webinar events, totaling 59 continuing education hours (mostly COPE-approved) for 3,200 individual registrants. In a significant change from 2020, the program reached a broader audience in 2021 — in addition to sustaining our audience of UC Berkeley alumni, more than half of registered attendees are now identifying as non-UC Berkeley alumni. This represents an expansion of the program's general audience as the outcome of an effective new marketing, communications, and branding strategy. This expansion beyond school alumni attendees is the outcome of an effective new marketing, communications, and branding strategy implemented by the CE Office in collaboration with Eric Craypo, director of school communications.

CE Programs in 2022
UC Berkeley Optometry’s CE Programs are continually adapting and expanding to meet the ever-changing needs of today’s optometrists and the modified certification requirements of the California Board of Optometry, COPE, and ARBO. In 2022, the CE Office will assess priorities, reinforce its organizational structure, and focus on launching an online learning management system that will host COPE-approved, virtual synchronous, and asynchronous lectures offering a variety of highly didactic courses across CE credit types. In addition, the team will explore CE offerings that provide a hybrid attendee experience, blending online and onsite learning.

Additional CE Courses and Events
In addition to their primary “live online programs,” the CE Programs Office also participated in accrediting, administering, marketing, and facilitating other UC Berkeley Optometry CE courses, including Oxyopia, b-Talks, and Resident Days. Many of these courses were held virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Aside from the core programs initiatives, the CE Programs Office also supported audio-visual and digital production needs for the School of Optometry, such as the school’s 2021 Graduation Ceremony, the annual White Coat Ceremony, Alumni Town Hall, and other online initiatives and events.
DEVELOPMENT & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Staff
The office is currently staffed by Interim Assistant Dean Ciel Mahoney (with recruitment for a permanent Assistant Dean underway), Director of Alumni Relations Rebecca Rickson, Director of Annual Fund Samantha Zepeda, and Assistant Director of Operations and Stewardship Goldie Negelev.

Donors
In 2021, the UC Berkeley School of Optometry received the largest gift ever by a school of optometry in the country, with a $50 million pledge from Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Family Foundation. The commitment is the lead gift for a 10-year, $100 million investment that will expand the school’s ability to train the next generation of optometric physicians and educators. The funds will be used to elevate the school’s training and research programs through investment in innovative models of vision care, teaching and discovery. In recognition of this transformative gift, the school was renamed the Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science.

Camaraderie
As the School continues to be resilient in addressing the challenges brought about by the pandemic, we hosted a modified and hybrid version of our Reunion and CE celebration, offering a series of engaging online lectures in September and October. The reunion celebration dubbed as “Brilliance of Berkeley Optometry” welcomed the Wertheim family, alumni, and friends to a new era as the School launched the Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science. The School made sure that enhancements for safety included vaccination requirements and indoor masking. The 2020 Alumnus of the Year was awarded to Janet Carter, OD, Class of 1979, Dr. Carl Jacobsen received the 2020 Annual Mert Flom Teaching Award from the class celebrating their 25th reunion. Dr. Stephen Chuin received the 2020 Michael G. Harris Distinguished Service Award for their important work in diversity, equity, & inclusion. The 2021 Alumnus of the Year was awarded to Janet Carter, OD, Class of 1979, Dr. Robert Greer received the 2021 Annual Mert Flom Teaching Award from the class celebrating their 25th reunion. Drs. Farah Gulaid, Joy Harewood, Sheryl Guillory Reaves, and Cristen Adams all received the 2021 Michael G. Harris Distinguished Service Award for their important work in diversity, equity, & inclusion.

Magazine
The 2021 edition of the Berkeley Optometry Magazine introduces inspirational individuals who are change agents and are fueled by their desire to make the world a better place. Among these stories are the life works of alumnus Dr. Clyde Oden, a Q&A with our new Diversity Director, Dr. Ruth Shoge, the pioneering clinical work of Dr. Nancy McNamara and her colleagues in the Sjögren’s clinic, the extraordinary influence of our vision science graduates and the astonishing life of Dr. Herbert Wertheim.

AWARDS AND HONORS
Faculty member Dr. Jennifer Fisher received the California Optometric Association’s Young OD of the Year award. Third year student Graham Chung received the George I. Deane Leadership award. Last, but not least, Dr. Michael Mendoza (alum) was elected to the COA board of trustees. Charlotte Wang as the winner of the Outstanding Teacher Award. 2nd year Vision Science student Alisa Braun (Tuten Lab) won the Young Investigator Award from the Optica (formerly OSA) Fall Vision Meeting.
OPTOMETRY CLINICS

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 2021, 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.

Clinical Governance

The clinic has established a coordinated system of clinical governance with Dr. Chris Wilmer, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, at the helm. Dr. Wilmer oversees all aspects of clinical operations as evidenced by the following organization chart. In the event of a brief absence, the Assistant Clinic Director, Dr. Kerri Yoshiyama, assumes temporary leadership responsibilities, ensuring a seamless and uninterrupted coverage.

Clinical Leadership Changes

In 2021, Dr. Kathy Tran was elected as the Chair of the Committee on Clinical Instruction (CCI).

New Clinic Faculty

The clinical faculty team acquired a few new hires for the academic year 2020-2021. The clinical faculty team acquired a number of new hires for the academic year 2021-22. New OD Clinical Faculty are:

Avery - Dr. Vanessa Avery is a 2013 graduate of the University of Missouri, St Louis optometry program. Upon completion of her optometric education, she completed a residency in Low Vision Rehabilitation through the Illinois College of Optometry. She is a part time clinical faculty member and teaches in our West Oakland and Eastmont community clinics.

Banwait - Dr. Premilla Banwait is a 2009 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry. Upon completion of her optometric education, she completed a residency in hospital based pediatric optometry with Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics in Kansas City, Missouri. She is a part time clinical faculty member and teaches in binocular vision.

Dao - Dr. Quan Dao is a 2020 graduate of the Pacific College of Optometry. Upon completion of her optometric program, she completed a residency in the area of ocular diseases at the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry. She is a part time clinical faculty member and teaches in our West Oakland and Eastmont community clinics, as well as our primary care clinic.

Jung - Dr. Liandra Jung is a 2020 graduate of the Pacific College of Optometry. Upon completion of her optometric education, she completed a residency in Primary Care and Contact Lenses at the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry. She is a part time clinical faculty member and teaches in primary care.

Kim - Dr Lily Kim is a 1994 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry. Upon
completion of her optometric studies she completed a residency in Primary Care Optometry at the San Francisco VAMC. She is a part time clinical faculty member and teaches in contact lenses.

Mercho - Dr. Nicole Mercho is a 2020 graduate of the State University of New York College of Optometry (SUNY). Upon completion of her optometric program, she completed a residency in Primary Care/Ocular Disease at the VA New Harbor Healthcare System. She is a part time clinical faculty member and teaches in our San Rafael community clinic, as well as our primary care clinic.

Shoge - Dr. Ruth Shoge is a 2006 graduate of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO-Salus University) where she completed a residency in pediatrics and vision therapy. She is a full-time clinical faculty member and the new Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

Truong - Dr. Tiffanie Truong is a 2019 graduate of the University of California, School of Optometry. Upon completion of her optometric education, she completed a residency in Ocular Diseases and Primary Care with the San Francisco VAMC. During her residency year Tiffanie had opportunities to expand her clinical experience in specialty contact lens fitting and low vision rehabilitation which she took advantage of. She is a part time clinical faculty member and teaches in contact lenses.

Viloria - Dr. Eric Viloria is a 2020 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry. Upon completion of his optometric studies, he completed a residency in Primary Care and Low Vision at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS). He is a part time clinical faculty member and teaches in our Over 60s clinic as well as as our direct patient care clinic.

**Faculty Development and Support**

**American Academy of Optometry Chicago**
There was a strong showing at the American Academy of Optometry meeting, held in a hybrid format in Boston in October 2021. Many clinical faculty members presented lectures, symposia, papers, and workshops.

**bTalks, Optometry Discussion Series**
Monthly bTalk lectures have continued in 2021 via zoom. About 20-25 doctors/residents and ~10 students attend each lecture and the positive feedback continues. We are trying to expand our presenters and topics.

**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.
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.