What is NOCA and NCCA?

In our profession, we commonly refer to many things by using initials or acronyms. Professional titles, certifications, ocular diagnoses, clinical trials, computers, and professional societies are just a few of the subjects that contribute to our vocabulary of acronyms. Most ophthalmic photographers would recognize some of these examples: OPS, CRA, FOPS, COPRA, BOD, BOC, BOE, AAO, BPA, JCAHPO, ATPO, AUPO, ASCRS, PDR, ARMD, POAG, NVG, AMPPEE, CMV, MEWDS, ETDRS, DCCT, OHTS, CPU, RAM, SCSI, FTP, HTTP, WYSIWYG … the list goes on and on.

There are two more sets of initials that I would like to add to this alphabet soup—NOCA and NCCA. Though you may or may not have seen or heard of them, they are very important to the profession of ophthalmic photography. “NOCA” is the National Organization for Competency Assurance, and “NCCA” is the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. What are they and what do they mean to ophthalmic photographers and the OPS?

These organizations are not government agencies; although the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was originally responsible for the development of NOCA/NCCA’s predecessor, the National Commission for Health Certifying Agencies (NCHCA) in 1977. This was a voluntary national organization whose mission was to establish standards of excellence for health certifying agencies. In 1989, NOCA was formed to provide a forum for individuals and organizations interested in competency assurance and certification issues. At the same time, NCCA was formed to replace NCHCA. This new commission expanded its scope to include a broad range of occupations. Acting as the accrediting arm of NOCA, the NCCA establishes criteria and standards for certification organizations and accredits those agencies that meet these standards.

The OPS Board of Certification has been a member of NOCA since 1989. Through our association with NOCA, we have found that many elements of our certification program already meet NCCA standards. When measured against larger organizations, with greater resources, we can be quite proud of the current state of our certification programs.

- Continued on Page 2 -

Looking for a neat gift idea for your boss, colleague or that ever-forgetful patient? How about giving them the first annual OPS/AAO 1996 Calendar.

Each month displays an award winning image from previous Scientific Exhibits.

Each calendar is $20 or $16 for two or more.

Simply call the American Academy of Ophthalmology 415-561-8540
What is NOCA and NCCA?

- Continued -

Over the last five years, we have made significant progress toward applying for NCCA recognition of the CRA program. Most of this has been done through the volunteer efforts of OPS members. On occasion, we have hired consultants to review our CRA program and provide psychometric analysis of the examination as required by NCCA standards. The separation of the Boards of Education and Certification, and the establishment of an independent treasury for the BOC are two examples of administrative challenges that were implemented to meet NCCA standards. The recent task analysis survey, and any subsequent changes as a result of the survey, are important additional steps toward NCCA recognition.

There is still a considerable amount of work to be done. Certification protocols, policies, and procedures must be documented in minute detail. We need to recruit a consumer advocate to represent the public interest on the Board of Certification. Other structural and administrative changes will be required.

The commission places quite an emphasis on what it terms, "administrative independence." This criterion requires that the certifying body be administratively independent of its parent society to avoid potential conflicts of interest. The Board of Certification should have independent authority over all policy and financial decisions relating to certification issues, without being subject to outside influence or approval. The OPS Board of Directors has allowed the BOC to function in this independent manner for a number of years. The NCCA requires that we guarantee this independent authority in our By-laws. The OPS By-laws are being reviewed now to identify any changes that are necessary to meet the requirements and to insure that integrity of our certification program.

How does all of this hard work benefit the OPS and Certified Retinal Angiographers? In this uncertain climate of health care reform, we must strengthen the value and recognition of our professional certification program. The possibility exists that certification may become a requirement for anyone providing ophthalmic photography services. Having our certification program accredited by an impartial panel of certification experts will reinforce our position as THE organization that certifies ophthalmic photographers and retinal angiographers. This will protect and enhance the value of achieving certification as a CRA. While pursuing compliance, the CRA program is evolving into a more objective and reliable measure of competence in retinal angiography.

Hopefully, this introduction has given you a greater understanding of the issues concerning NCCA accreditation of the CRA program. Now you can add NOCA and NCCA to your vocabulary of acronyms!

Timothy J. Bennett, COPRA
Board of Certification

A Note from the Editor:

Every day (except hopefully Sundays) we sit behind cameras of one kind or another and attempt to merge medical science with imaging technology; ophthalmic disorders with artful photography; and also assist our doctors in meeting the needs of our patients. I would like to salute the two individuals who managed to master this often difficult task and take the Best of Show awards at the 1995 Scientific Exhibit. Accolades to Ray Swords in the Stereo Image category and Marshall Tyler in the Print Division. Keep up the good work, everyone! (If you missed seeing the exhibit at the Academy, look for these images in the next Journal of Ophthalmic Photography.)
“Yikes—We’re getting a new digital system... Now What?”

Sound familiar? Perhaps you are excited by the prospect of learning this new mode of imaging, but are feeling a little overwhelmed by all the technology that goes with it. Or maybe you have mastered your system, but haven’t had the opportunity to explore the possibilities of “what else” can be done with the images you have made. Whatever the scenario, the Board of Education invites you to Rochester, New York for a unique, practical course in electronic imaging, June 7-9, 1996.

The Rochester Institute of Technology, School of Photographic Arts and Sciences will be the setting for this two and half day course, where we will have lectures and multiple practical workshops using the SPAS computer laboratory, as well as access to the leading ophthalmic digital imaging systems.

The curriculum has been designed to provide information on how electronic ophthalmic images are captured, and what these clinical significances are. Then information will be provided on how these images can be enhanced, managed, stored, networked, projected, or published. Topics will include explanations of acquisition systems, image retrieval and storage, output devices and software, computer/digital image networking, retinal and choroidal angiography, ONH analysis, ICG application and interpretation, and of course, ethics and the manipulation of images. While the basics of electronic imaging will be discussed, this course is intended for photographers who have some experience with computers and digital systems. Care has been taken to provide as much time for hands-on computer use as possible.

The faculty will include outstanding OPS members who are acknowledged experts in this field, and members of the RIT faculty who will share their special knowledge of imaging hardware and software.

The program, including registration materials, will be mailed within the next few months, so watch for it in the mail. In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact Bill Fischer at (716) 475-2743, or Paula Morris at (801) 581-6219, and watch the OPS newsletter for more information.

Take this opportunity to expand your experience with digital images and join us in Rochester in June for an “electric” weekend.

Historical Committee News

A special thanks to Marsha LeFave, Gerald Hoover, Collen Eardley Mulder, Paul Paquette and Jay Rostvold for dipping into their private collections for contributions to the Historical Committee. I am pleased to announce that the OPS Archives now possesses a complete collection of newsletters which will be bound for future posterity.

At this time we are only six Education Programs away from having a complete collection in this area as well. It’s time to look into your closets and your hearts and give generously to this project. Think of how exciting it will be to preview this collection when we celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

The following programs are still missing in action:

Las Vegas 1970      Kansas City 1978
Las Vegas 1971      San Francisco 1979
Dallas 1972         Atlanta 1980

If you wish to donate one of these items you need not contact me in advance—simply send the program to:

Denise Barksn, CRA, COMT
California Pacific Medical Center
Eye Professional Diagnostic Services
2100 Webster Street - Ste. 219
San Francisco, CA  94115

Again, may I request that only the listed items be sent to avoid a deluge of unnecessary mail. Thank you.
Thank You One and All

As our 26th Annual Educational Program concludes, I again find myself impressed by all of the hard work and optimistic attitudes our members put forth. Even with the possible setback of conducting a meeting in a hotel undergoing construction—everyone pitched in and helped to create one of the best programs ever! I would like to personally extend my thanks to the following people who helped monitor courses, collect evaluations, change room signs, and present instructor/lecturer gifts. Your enthusiasm was outstanding!

Please call me or any of the board members if you have suggestions for next year or if you are interested in continuing your commitment to the Society. Thanks again!

Angela West, CRA, COA
(219) 836-4110 Fax: (219) 836-2709

Stuart Alfred
Melinda Kay Barker
Craig Bridges
Mark Croswell
Lon Dowell
Jay Fitzgerald
Janice Franco
Don Kuitula
Fran McGiver
Gordon McGregor
Kit Morehead
Randy Murdock
Paul Paquette
Jim Pierotti
Craig Ramsey
Debbie Runnels
Harry Rosa
Sharon Scrimo
Cindy Skattebo
Anna Steffens
Tim Steffens
Michael Steels
Donna Rae Sutherland
Teresa Thompson
Tracy Troszak
Dennis West
Maria Wordhouse

Can it be? The OPS 26th Annual Educational Program has come and gone. Where did the time go? As I think back over the educational program with the many classes and workshops and the many, many people attending, I feel excited that we were able to provide such a diversity of courses. I hope everyone that attended the courses in Atlanta had a wonderful time and you were able to find the correct room despite all the construction at the Hyatt. The next educational program I plan will hopefully not have the Olympics scheduled to come to the city the following year!

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the planning and production of the Atlanta 95 Program. Without your help it would not have been as successful as it was. If you have a comment about Atlanta 95, I encourage you to call me and let me know what you thought of the program. If you would like to help on the Chicago Program for 1996, call me and I will place you on one of the committees. Thank you for a wonderful meeting.

William Anderson, CRA
General Chairman
OPS 26th Annual Education Program
(214) 648-3845

PS. To all those board members who received disposable snap shot cameras—where are your snaps?

Congratulations to Rob Wolfson, the winner of this year’s Angioliath $1000 Sweepstakes. Rob has been an ophthalmic photographer for nearly 20 years and currently practices in the Greater NYC area. Although Rob was unable to attend this year’s Annual Meeting, Mark Croswell, CRA made his presence known by taking the $100 door prize. Mark is pictured here with Holly Harwood-Skolkin, CRA and Denice Barsness, CRA, COMT who were among the many OPS members and friends who enjoyed the wine and cheese party hosted by Angioliath.
Hard work and lots of fun with familiar faces!
**Board of Certification 1996 Examination Test Dates**

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<tr>
<th>CERTIFIED RETINAL ANGIOGRAPHER</th>
<th>CERTIFIED OPHTHALMIC PHOTOGRAPHER AND RETINAL ANGIOGRAPHER</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Portfolio Deadline</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21-22</td>
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<td>July 5</td>
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<td>August 3-4</td>
<td>CRA Exam, Miami, FL</td>
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<td><strong>Contact:</strong> R. MacKenzie Timby, CRA, FOPS</td>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> Terrance L. Tomer, COPRA, FOPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>(616) 373-8803</td>
<td>(215) 928-3405</td>
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**Note:** To apply for a CRA exam the following eligibility requirements must be met:

1. Letter of satisfactory submission of portfolio from the Portfolio Committee.
2. A letter from the employing physician or institution addressed to the Chairman of the CRA Section verifying the applicant’s employment history as a retinal angiographer for a minimum of two years.
3. Current certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) (American Red Cross or American Heart Association preferred.)

**New BOC Mentoring Program**

The BOC is pleased to announce the development of a Mentoring Program. Applicants to the CRA or COPRA Program who are interested in having a mentor are encouraged to contact William Nyberg. He will match you with someone who is geographically compatible with you.

A mentor will guide you through the certification process. Mentors are CRAs or COPRAs themselves and have direct experience with the certification process. Anyone interested in serving as a mentor should also contact Bill.

**William C. Nyberg, CRA, RBP**
**Scheie Eye Institute**
**Myrin Circle**
**39th and Market Streets**
**Philadelphia, PA 19104**
**Tel: (215) 662-8127 Fax: (215) 662-0133**
Impressions from Front Lines of Atlanta 95

I can’t give too many impressions of the City of Atlanta as I never got out to see much of it. However, the restaurants I did try, were great!

I think the pre-registration and on-site meeting registration went very smoothly, even though the registration location was changed three times and people had a difficult time finding us at first. My thanks to Bill Anderson, Paul Montague, Jeff Sobel and Marsha Sobel for all their assistance in training, set-up, organization and registration activities. I never could have accomplished this alone!

I really enjoyed meeting everyone, and it was helpful to finally put names and faces together. I feel extremely fortunate to be working for such a great group of people!

We registered 469 people (including lecture and workshop faculty). This was the first year we accepted credit cards and everyone was enthusiastic about this new payment option.

We currently have 1,002 dues-paid members. There are still 123 members who have not paid their 1995-96 dues. If you are not sure whether you have paid, please call the Central Office to verify that the payment was processed.

Barbara McCalley
1-800-403-1677

New Members
Christina R. Arbogast, Reno, NV
Debra A. Barter, Minneapolis, MN
Sally Jo Barlett, Northfield, NJ
David B. Bennett, CRA, Mechanicsville, VA
Joseph R. Beringer, Brown Deer, WI
Robert M. Bowen, Jr., CRA, Matthews, NC
Eric P. Brasch, North Wales, PA
Chris Coleman, Norcross, GA
Jeffrey B. Dennis, Stone Mountain, GA
Jeffrey G. Gross, MD, Columbia, SC
Dennis K. Hanyo, New Bern, NC
Diana M. Hatzis, Wantagh, NY
Hernan Hernandez, Jr., Mt. Dora, FL
Kenneth D. Holt, Columbia, SC
LeAnn House, Independence, MO
Margaret O. Hull, Richmond, VA
Richard W. Irwin, Galveston, TX
Luc Jaccard, Lausanne, Switzerland
Martin J. Kelly, Fort Wayne, IN
Marie Ladomirak, Westfield, NJ
Anne J. Lucore, New Orleans, LA
Heidi Marcus Moran, Absecon, NJ
Debbie McCormick, Decatur, GA
Angela K. McKean, Euclid, OH
Marilyn J. Meibers, Torrance, CA
Kathy L. Melvin, Elizabethtown, TN
Mark L. Metzler, Baltimore, MD
Stephen G. Mosher, CRA, Memphis, TN
Robert Myles, Atlanta, GA
John H. Neill, Lake Charles, LA
Maria J. Pei, Valley Stream, NY
Michelle E. Plummer, Scottsbluff, NE
Tuck-Wooh Pok, Singapore
Sheri Porter, Euclid, OH
Suzanne M. Post, Ocean City, NJ
Michael Riff, New York, NY
Walter W. Roberts, Charlotte, NC
Charlotte Rodman, Durango, CO
Jo-Anne E. Romandy, Midlothian, VA
Karri Lynn Schuetz, CRA, Houston, TX
Joseph A. Serratore, Bow, NH
Pat Stainaitis, Philadelphia, PA
Dan Stanciu, Bayville, NY
Michael R. Steele, Long Beach, CA
Tom M. Telford, Mountain Home, AR
Trisha Trueman, Winter Haven, FL
Laurel M. Weeney, CRA, Philadelphia, PA
Ronald J. Williams, CRA, Shreveport, LA
David M. Yates, St. Louis, MO
Karen J. Zeiger, Needham, MA

Each man on Earth is nothing but a mosaic of a picture he will never see.

- Ernst Haas
Professional Opportunities

Ophthalmic Photographer: The Lions Eye Institute in Perth Australia is expanding its clinical staff and is creating a new position. The majority of responsibilities will be based in the eye clinic involving all aspects of ophthalmic photography, and particularly fluorescein angiography. In addition, the post offers a variety of work including public relations, surgical, video, and publications assistance with scientific projects and computer slide preparation. Applicants must have previous experience in ophthalmic photography, be motivated, capable of undertaking a wide range of photographic and electronic tasks and producing high quality work unsupervised. A good working knowledge of photographic and electronic media is essential, and a varied portfolio of both ophthalmic and electronic media should be available. Hourly schedule will be flexible dependent on clinical workload, and may require work outside a normal hourly commitment to complete urgent assignments. Interested applicants should contact Chris Barry by calling 61 9 382 1171 or by forwarding resume to: Mr. Chris Barry, Lions Eye Institute, 2 Verdun St., Nedlands, Perth 6009, Western Australia. FAX: 61 9 346 2811. E-mail: cjbarry@uniwa.uwa.edu.au

Ophthalmic Photographer: Must be experienced in fluorescein angiography and fundus photography. Individual will be involved in all technical aspects of practice. Salary/benefits dependent upon experience. Send resume to: A. Friedman, 2683-J Emory Drive West, West Palm Beach, FL 33415.

Ophthalmic Photographer wanted for a busy university setting in Detroit, MI. Job will require fundus, fluorescein, slit-lamp and endothelial photography. Some darkroom and copy stand work. Some external and PR photography. We participate in both NIH and drug company sponsored studies. CRA preferred. Salary negotiable. Excellent benefits. Position available now. Call Jeffrey A. Sobel at (313) 577-6908.

For Sale: ABODIA - Lighted Slide Storage. For a catalog call 1-800-950-7775.

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email: Justiceo@asol.com

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OPHTHALMIC PHOTOGRAPHERS' SOCIETY

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