COPRA
Accreditation Discontinued

After much deliberation, the Board of Certification voted to discontinue the Certified Ophthalmic Photographer and Retinal Angiographer (COPRA) program effective April 11, 1997. This difficult decision was reached in order to protect the ongoing efforts to achieve national recognition of the Certified Retinal Angiographer program. While preparing for application to the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), it became apparent that the current COPRA Program does not meet the guidelines for accreditation. NCCA requires that all certification programs of an organization must meet their guidelines before that organization can be accredited.

The BOC commends the achievement of the COPRA certificants and their support of the CRA program. The Board also recognizes the efforts of the COPRA applicants.

A BOC committee was formed to create a new advanced level certification program that addresses the changing needs of the profession and would be in compliance with NCCA guidelines.

Roommate Connection

If you reserve a hotel room for the ’97 OPS Educational Program in SF and would like to share it with a fellow OPS member, please fax or mail your name, address, room availability and/or requirements, along with your arrival and departure dates. You will receive a list of possible roommates to contact.

Please be aware I do not have access to attaining rooms—so make your own reservations early! You will be receiving housing information by mid-June. FYI- a double room at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero will run about $250.

Cindy Skattebo, COA
North Iowa Eye Clinic
Hwy 18 West • PO Box 1877
Mason City, IA 50402-1877

The Time is Now...

Plans for the 28th Annual Meeting of the Ophthalmic Photographers' Society are under way—but we are looking for a fresh group of friendly faces and helping hands. It's time to get involved, have fun and make the most of your Society. Here's a run down of what's cookin' so far:

♦ The Final Program will be mailed in mid-June: The 1997 Annual Educational Program will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Market Street at Embarcadero. Specifics, such as neighboring hotels, transportation, etc. will be in the coming program. This is the last time the Academy will be held in the beloved "city by the bay" until after the year 2004! So don’t miss it!

♦ On-Site Workshop Equipment Coordinator Needed: Someone to organize and supervise the assembly / disassembly and packing of all workshop equipment. The person for this position must be available through Wednesday for teardown. If interested, contact (ASAP) Michael Coppinger, OPS Vice President at (802) 442-2907.

♦ Classroom Monitors Wanted: For those members who have volunteered to monitor classrooms in the past and for those who have not, contact Janice Clifton at (206) 545-3682 or Fax: (206) 883-5983. If you have never involved yourself in the workings of the OPS, possibly because you didn't know how you would go about it, then consider this your golden opportunity. It is truly an excellent way to get acquainted with other members and learn more about your field.

♦ Scientific Paper Session Deadline Change: The deadline for paper submissions has been moved up two weeks so that all Titles / Authors can be included in the final program to be mailed in mid-June. Session sections will treat: (1) Scientific Research and Development, and (2) Ophthalmic Imaging Instrumentation.

Time permitted for presentation of papers is ten minutes, followed by a ten minute question and answer period from a panel of speakers from the section.

Please submit your outline to Michael Coppinger via fax (802) 442-3725. If you have questions call him at (802) 442-2907.
OPS - Chicago Meets SOMAC

On Nov. 20, 1996, the OPS Chicago Chapter met in conjunction with the Society of Ophthalmic Medical Assistants in Chicago (SOMAC). The topic was Indocyanine Green Angiography. It was held at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. Dr. Maurice Rabb, Professor of Ophthalmology at the UIC Eye Center, and Chairman of the Dept. of Ophthalmology at Mercy Hospital, opened with a presentation demonstrating the differences between Fluorescein Angiography and ICG Angiography. He covered normal and pathological conditions.

The remainder of the program was given by Mark Janowicz, Ophthalmic Photographer at the UIC Eye Center. Mark demonstrated image capture, retrieval and patient management in the performance of IGC angiography using the Imagenet System.

The Chicago Chapter wishes to thank our program presenters for an outstanding educational evening.

Alan Frohlichstein, CRA, BFA, BS
President
OPS Chicago Chapter

Historical Archives
"Call for Contributions"

The Historical Committee continues its quest to gather a complete set of OPS documents for the archives. The generosity of all members in contributing to this project is gratefully acknowledged. Do you have any newsletters, programs, etc.? Languishing in your files that you might like to donate? If so, please mail the requested items only directly to Denice.

Newsletters:
Anything from 1972
1974- Vol. 4 #1
1975- Vol. 4 #1, #2, #3 #4
1976- Vol. 14 #6

Programs:
Las Vegas 1970, 1971
Dallas 1972
Kansas City 1978
San Francisco 1979, 1982
Atlanta 1984
Dallas 1992

Denice Barsness, CRA, COMT, FOPS
OPS Historian
Eye Professional Services
2100 Webster Street - Ste. 219
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 923-3937

"Outside the Frame"

It can be difficult to view the picture if you live inside the frame.

The Gift

Several weeks ago one of our residents brought an elderly patient to see me for fluorescein angiography. She walked slowly, hesitantly, and was supported by her equally frail spouse. Once seated at the fundus camera, I chatted with her and found out that she was terrified of needles and was almost in tears about her recently discovered diabetic macular edema.

Later, as I walked her to the checkout desk, she shook my hand warmly, saying "Thank you so very much. I really enjoyed it." This made me stop in amazement. In my 23 years as an ophthalmic photographer, patients have thanked me on occasion for the service I provided, but no patient had ever thanked me for giving them enjoyment. What occurred during this patient encounter to cause such a dramatic reversal in outlook? Conversation and compassion.

It is our practice to begin each patient encounter by explaining the nature of the photography to be performed. This is never done by rote, but rather conversationally while striving for maximal understanding. Clearly this message must be individually tailored. Some patients are comfortable with just the basics, while others ask for detailed information. Of course, any questions concerning the patient’s specific condition must be referred to the physician.

Next, during the photographic session we try to continue the verbal commentary. The commands and directions that must be given to obtain the best images are interspersed liberally with words of encouragement and high praise. Thus, the patient becomes a true participant in the process, rather than an uninvolved bystander. By varying the emphasis, level and timbre, some photographers can induce a near-hypnotic state that can be useful to avert emesis if the patient suffers an episode of nausea during the angiogram. The greatest benefit of this steady stream of conversation is that the patient is diverted from being preoccupied with fear or worry, and instead concentrates on the specific issues brought forth by the photographer.

Compassion is perhaps the defining characteristic of our roles as health care providers—though the word ‘caregiver’ is even more illustrative of our task. Of course, technical mastery ensures that our images provide value to the clinician and ultimately the patient. Yet, without compassion, the photographic session can be dehumanizing, burdensome and possibly terrifying. It may be unreasonable to think that we can make the heart-to-heart connection with every patient. We all should strive to remember, however, that the retina or cornea in front of our camera belongs to a person who is someone’s spouse, or grandchild, or aunt and who may be in psychic agony over the prospect of blindness. Our gift to them is attention, freely given, to their emotional as well as their physical state. If done honestly and from the heart, you too may be given this gift:

"Thank you, I really enjoyed it!"

- Lawrence Merin, President
BOD Mid-Year Meeting
Orlando, Florida

Friday, January 31, 1997
I. Meeting called to order at 5:03 PM.
II. Minutes of October 31 and November 1 BOD Chicago meeting were approved. Minutes of October 26 and 28 will be reviewed for approval at next BOD meeting.
III. To Do lists were reviewed. Those items not of an ongoing nature were complete.
IV. Central Office report was presented by Barb McCalley. Items included status of membership, renewal notices and acceptance of credit cards.
V. Policy on financial disclosure was reviewed, amended and approved for inclusion in the Policy book.
VI. Terry Toner presented the BOC Report. BOC accomplishments for 1996 included the BOC section on the ONS web page, creation of new brochure, changes in recertification and expansion of alternative pathways for CRA.
Terry gave progress report on NCCA application and is optimistic of completing application in 1997.
BOC report was unanimously accepted.
VII. Paula Morris began BOE report with a review of plans for 1997 to include refining basics course, mentorship program and the development of the mission statement. Various courses and proposed dates were presented to include progress on 1997 annual educational program in San Francisco. BOE report unanimously accepted.
VIII. Paul Montague reported ICOP "98 is on track.
IX. Discussion ensued on various aspects of the CD-ROM project.
X. Scientific exhibit release form was discussed. Concerns should be addressed to the Scientific Exhibit Committee. Continued use of form recommended. The idea of displaying winning prints at banquet before AAOS floor display was brought up by Michael Coppinger for further consideration.
XI. Jim Gilman presented intention of developing a "Technology Tools Exchange" vehicle by the Communications and Technologies Committee.
XII. Individual BOD members were polled by President Merin on the subject of full membership in JCAHPO. A very lengthy discussion followed and a motion was made. Board unanimously approved to submit application for consideration this spring. A related discussion continued as to JCAHPO's relationship with ATPO.
XIII. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Saturday, February 1, 1997
I. Meeting called to order at 9:18 AM.
II. Finance committee report and 1997 budget was presented by Jeff Sobel. Committee items included financial disclosure policy, membership mailing list purchase, ONS scholarship fund, membership/registration database for central office and budget limits. 1996 expenditures and revenues were reviewed. Budget line items were acted on and board recessed at 6:07 PM. Reconvened at 6:15 PM.
III. Board decided on an item writing session for the BOC to take place at 8 AM Sunday morning with the BOD meeting to begin at 9 AM.
IX. Meeting was opened to new business. Subjects included: petty cash fund for newsletter mailing expenses, honorary life membership for Don Wong, central office storage of CEC cards, bibliographic resource for members and a salary survey.
X. Balance of day's meeting was spent discussing the needs, aspects and ramifications of compiling a salary survey. The OPS could be the source of its membership's statistics. Surveys could be included with registration forms for annual programs. Questions as part of class attendance procedures, potentially, could be more thorough. However, class time allowance, in this case, becomes more of an issue. Either way has the potential to be more effective than a mailing or publication approach. Paul Montague; working with Barb McCalley, could work on logistics while Karen Klima and Larry Merin develop the content. Karen would act as coordinator.
XII. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM. (Reminder of item writing session at 8 AM).
Sunday, February 2, 1997

I. Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM after item writing session.

II. Larry noted the administrative nature of remaining agenda items including the implications of the transition of treasurer's position, committee chairs and the overwhelming duties of vice president as related to time needed to do the job. Also the president's term of office and its administration transitions. And the efficiency of the timing of BOD mid-year meeting.

III. New business continued with discussion of committee chair changes and additions and completion of current committee list for inclusion in directory.

IV. The board discussed the importance of the treasury as key to the way the OPS does business and the need for smooth transition across administrations. Jeff Sobel was applauded for his efforts to date.

V. The possible restructuring of the position of vice president as related to annual education program chair was explored. The need to disseminate duties was agreed on and Paula will explore with the BOE on a possible plan for change. Currently, Michael will utilize the central office for some of the more time consuming tasks, especially where computer functions apply.

VI. President's position restructuring was also discussed. The idea of a president-elect to learn the ropes prior to taking office was presented by Larry. Also, employer constraints was pointed out as another possible need for change.

VII. Consideration was given to moving mid-year meeting to spring but board agreed to leave as is and possibly only move a week or two.

VIII. Larry informed board of his communications with BPA regarding the formation of a beneficial relationship with the OPS. Board was in favor of continuing this dialog. Larry also noted OPS' status as world's largest biocommunications organization.

IX. Guidelines for regional chapters have not yet been completed. BOE would like these for dealing with educational programs and Susan needs for determining chapter status. Alan will try to get the information.

X. Meeting was adjourned at 12:33 PM.
New Members
(January 1, - March 26, 1997)

Robin E. Agee, Lincoln, IL
Doug M. Blanchard, Salt Lake City, UT
Lynee M. Boyd, Lake Mary, FL
Charlene C. Callahan, Revere, MA
Lorraine J. Carter, Cot, Albuquerque, NM
Vicki A. Coverstone, RN, Newark, CA
Robert E. Davis, Albany, NY
Jennifer L. DuBois, Medford, MA
Carrie Evans, Hamden, CT
Russell D. Hagy, San Antonio, TX
Michael P. Harker, Cedar Rapids, IA
Katherine M. Haslam, Cambridge, UK
Ed Heffron, Iowa City, IA
Cheryl Lisa Henderson, Tallahassee, FL
Richard G. Hiatt, San Antonio, TX
Brian D. Holmes, Delran, NJ
Richard E. Jones, Plano, TX
Michael Kelly, Cleveland, OH
Patricia J. Kennedy, COMT, Kent, WA
Karen Knoche-Herring, NCE, Houston, TX
Candice S. Kwok, Hong Kong
Elizabeth M. Manternach, Cot, Davenport, IA
Robert Morris, COA, Cape Coral, FL
Christye A. Pazuros, East Rochester, NY
Cheryl A. Phillips, COA, Sheridan, IN
Robert Prusak, Detroit, MI
Mark Sneath, Sarasota, FL
Joseph G. Territo, Rochester, NY
Cynthia K. Thomas, COA, Swansea, IL
Bobbie A. Turner, CRA, Cot, Portland, OR
Rhonda Williams, Albuquerque, NM
John C. Zeitz, Cot, Lancaster, CA
Daryl J. Zelenak, CRA, Warren, MI

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email: Justiceop@aol.com

OPS CALENDAR
May 10, 1997 - Basic Ophthalmic Photography
Carolina Chapter / OPS
Charlotte, NC
Contact: Marshall Tyler Tel: (910) 716-4895
E-mail: MTyler@bgsm.edu

August 23, 1997 - Basic Ophthalmic Photography
University of Ottawa Eye Institute / OPS
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Contact: OPS Central Office

Sept. 20, 1997 - Basic Ophthalmic Photography
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute / OPS
Miami, FL
Contact: OPS Central Office or
Ditte Hess Tel: (305) 326-6053
E-mail: dhes@bascom.med.miami.edu

1997 CRA TEST DATES

CRA / CERTIFIED RETINAL ANGIOGRAPHER
July 3 Portfolio Deadline
July 18 Application Deadline
August 2-3 CRA Exam, Philadelphia, PA

Please note: Before applying for the CRA exam, please see the last newsletter for eligibility requirements or contact:
R. MacKenzie Timby, CRA, FOPS (616) 373-8803.
Professional Opportunities:

Ophthalmic Technicians / Technologists / Orthoptists Needed! Experienced ophthalmic techs and orthoptists needed for busy, growing, multi-site, multi-specialty (general, pediatrics, glaucoma, cornea, retina) ophthalmology practice. Must know Goldman and Humphrey visual fields, refractometry, patient histories, A/B scans, keratometry, etc. Experience fitting contact lenses and doing photography a plus. Competitive salary and benefits. If interested, please send resume to Christa Lane-Larsen, Administrator, Associated Eye Care, 232 N. Main St., Stillwater, MN 55082.

Ophthalmic Photographer: The Eye Foundation of Kansas City, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Missouri-Kansas City, School of Medicine is currently seeking an experienced ophthalmic photographer with a background in conventional photography, digital imaging and computer. The preferred candidate for this position must possess leadership skills and a desire to be a part of a progressive and innovative team. Excellent salary. Qualified applicants should fax their resume to Ms. Georgia Lou Quentin, Associate Administrator at (816) 881-6167.

Ophthalmic Photographer / Technician: Virginia Mason Medical Center is seeking a qualified ophthalmic photographer / technician. Must have a minimum of five years experience as an ophthalmic photographer with emphasis on angiography. Visual field testing and general patient work-up skills essential. As one of the top rated facilities in the Pacific Northwest, we offer competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits package. Please call or fax resume identifying position of interest to Virginia Mason Medical Center, fax: (206) 223-6921 or tel: (206) 223-8874. EEO.

Equipment for Sale:

Zeiss FF-3 with two Contax camera bodies and winders, Dataphot, 2X adapter and extra flash tube. Excellent condition. I will have camera cleaned and inspected by National Instrument Service Corp. before shipping. For further information contact Walt Wippinger at:

E-mail: Waltwip@execpc.com
Work Tel: (414) 456-7994
Home Tel: (414) 771-4860

Barbara McCalley / OPS Central Office
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Newsletter Submission Deadlines:
June 1, 1997
August 1, 1997
October 1, 1997
December 1, 1997

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OPS Historian
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