The Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society is celebrating 50 years. The coordinated group of imagers began in 1969, when a few professionals held their first formal gathering at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Chicago to establish an organization to share technical information, collaborate on new techniques, and set standards of practice.

Founding members included: Lee Allen, Earl Choromokos, Ogden Frazier, Johnny Justice Jr., Roger Lancaster, Yvonne Magli, Mary Manella, Terrance Tomer, Anna Wiley, and Don Wong.

From the very beginning, the Society fostered an environment of collaboration, innovation, and education by acting as a central forum for the exchange of information via programs, such as national and regional education and webinars, and publications, such as the peer-reviewed Journal of Ophthalmic Photography.

All of these programs and member benefits are accomplished through efforts of dedicated volunteers from the OPS ranks, along with generous philanthropic support from sustaining members.

"From its inception, the OPS has been built on volunteerism," says Michael P. Kelly, OPS president. "Our altruistic founders set in motion an example that exists to this day and benefits all who seek the knowledge and skills needed to perform exceptional ocular imaging. Through each new technological advancement over the years, OPS members have lead the way in pushing the limits of new imaging device capability and then sharing their expertise, volunteering their time and energy in this passion, which is ophthalmic photography."

The OPS also offers two certifications in ophthalmic photography: the Certified Retinal Angiographer and the Optical Coherence Tomography-Certified. These successes are a testament to the vision of the founders of the OPS 50 years ago along with the commitment of time, talent, and energy of our members throughout the years.

“I have been so blessed by the friendships and the camaraderie of so many supremely talented people in this discipline, assisting the early days of the designs for certification, and guiding so many skilled photographers into the wonders of ophthalmology," says charter member Richard Alan Lews, M.D., M.S.

OPS will be celebrating throughout 2019. Details and other OPS information may be found at opsweb.org, Facebook page, or by contacting Barbara McCalley, executive director, at ops@opsweb.org.