AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY®

Mid-Year Forum 2024

Politics. Policy. Practice Management.

April 17–20 | Washington, D.C.
Westin Downtown Hotel
999 9th Street, NW

The Mid-Year Forum is one of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's most significant yearly meetings, bringing the ophthalmology community together to instigate change and shape our profession's future.

Protecting Sight. Empowering Lives.®

Wednesday, April 17

Congressional Advocacy Day

4:00 pm – 8:30 pm **Registration/Information**

Potomac Ballroom Registration Desk

4:00 pm – 9:30 pm **Congressional Advocacy Day – Appointment Pick-up***

Potomac Ballroom Registration Desk

**Appointment Pick-Up Desk Hours: 4:00 to 6:45 pm and then 8:30 to 9:00 pm.*

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm **Dinner Briefing**

Potomac Ballroom: Salons 1 & 2

Moderator: Sohail J. Hasan, MD, PhD – Chair, OPHTHPAC Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology

This year's Congressional Advocacy Day features in-person events and meetings on Capitol Hill and builds on our successful efforts to protect sight through action at the federal level. Our efforts will highlight the Medicare payment burdens that impact our profession and we will be urging members of Congress to support prior authorization reform, vision research funding, and ensuring Veterans receive the best quality of care. Before we make our way to Capitol Hill, you will be fully trained on how to best represent our profession to members of Congress and their staff. All Academy members are urged to take part in this critical event to bring your voice to these important issues. Only you can protect your patients, practice, and profession.

7:00 pm – 7:05 pm **Welcome**

Sohail J. Hasan, MD, PhD – Chair, OPHTHPAC Committee
American Academy of Ophthalmology

7:05 pm – 7:10 pm **Remarks from the President**

Jane C. Edmond, MD – President, American Academy of Ophthalmology

7:10 pm – 7:20 pm **Recognition of the Copeland Fund Fellow**

Sohail J. Hasan, MD, PhD – Chair, OPHTHPAC Committee
American Academy of Ophthalmology

7:20 pm – 7:25 pm **OPHTHPAC**

Sohail J. Hasan, MD, PhD – Chair, OPHTHPAC Committee
American Academy of Ophthalmology

7:25 pm – 7:30 pm **Surgical Scope Fund**

Lee A. Snyder, MD – Chair, Surgical Scope Fund Committee
American Academy of Ophthalmology

7:30 pm – 7:40 pm **Advocacy Pointers**

7:40 – 8:25 pm **Legislative Briefing**

Rebecca Hyder – Vice President, Governmental Affairs
American Academy of Ophthalmology

Michael X. Repka, MD, MBA – Medical Director for Governmental Affairs, President-Elect, American Academy of Ophthalmology

8:25 pm – 8:30 pm **Closing**

Sohail J. Hasan, MD, PhD – Chair, OPHTHPAC Committee American Academy of Ophthalmology

8:30 pm **Adjourn**

8:45 pm – 10:00 pm **Advocacy Ambassador Program Briefing and Reception**

– *by invit*ation only

Anacostia Ballroom: Salons D & E

Thursday, April 18

Congressional Advocacy Day

7:00 am – 8:00 am	**Breakfast**
8:30 am – 3:00 pm	**Congressional Visits – In-person**
11:30 am – 2:00 pm	**Boxed Lunch**

Congressional Advocacy Day Q&A Breakfast

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Continental Breakfast – Questions and Answers**

Potomac Ballroom: Salons 1 & 2

7:00 am – 7:05 am **Welcome**

Sohail J. Hasan, MD, PhD – Chair, OPHTHPAC Committee
American Academy of Ophthalmology

7:05 am – 7:10 am **The Power of EyeCare America®**

Arvind Saini, MD, MBA – Member, EyeCare America Steering Committee

7:10 am – 7:15 am **Navigating Capitol Hill and Overview of Schedules**

Advocacy Associates

7:15 am – 7:20 am **Review of Veterans' Affairs Eye Care Talking Points**

7:20 am – 7:40 am **Congressional Meeting Training Skits**

7:40 am – 8:00 am **CAD Question and Answer Session**

Metro to Capitol Hill

Members will be provided with Metro SmarTrip cards to accommodate their trip to and from Capitol Hill. A map of the Metro system and Capitol Hill is provided in the "Getting Around D.C." section. Please allow at least 45-60 minutes to get to the Hill before your meetings.

Meetings with Members of Congress and Staff 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Appointments with your members of Congress have been made for you based on your home address provided at registration. Please check your schedule to ensure that you are on the Hill in time for your meetings and allow an extra 20 minutes for security checks. For questions about your appointments, contact **Dash Delan at ddelan@aao.org or call 202.587.5823**. Return from Capitol Hill to the Westin Downtown Hotel by Metro.

Contact Dash Delan immediately if you will not be available to attend your scheduled meeting. Missed appointments reflect poorly on the Academy and make scheduling future meetings more difficult.

Dash Delan, ddelan@aao.org, 202.587.5823

Boxed Lunch 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Reserve Officers Building, 1 Constitution Ave NE
See the map of Capitol Hill provided in the "Getting Around D.C." section of the Congressional Advocacy Day Legislative Briefing book.

Thursday, April 18

Politics. Policy. Practice Management.

Commercial support provided in part by AMGEN – Platinum Level

3:30 pm **Welcome and Introduction to Mid-Year Forum 2024**

Potomac Ballroom: Salons 1 & 2

Stephen D. McLeod, MD - CEO, American Academy of Ophthalmology and
Jane C. Edmond, MD - President, American Academy of Ophthalmology

3:40 pm – 5:30 pm **Artificial Intelligence: Shaping the Future of Healthcare and Empowering Ophthalmologists**

Moderators: Russell N. Van Gelder, MD, PhD - Editor, OPHTHALMOLOGY, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Sally L. Baxter, MD, MSc - Member, Committee on Artificial Intelligence, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Artificial Intelligence has the potential to elevate patient care, reduce costs and increase operational efficiencies for physician practices and healthcare systems. This session will explore potential promises and pitfalls of AI and its impact on Ophthalmology. Attendees will also hear how Congress and the Biden Administration are approaching AI regulation and how their actions could shape the future of AI in healthcare. The session will also offer a practice management component, providing insights on how practices can incorporate AI tools into their daily routines. Don't miss this chance to explore the possibilities of AI in ophthalmology!

3:40 pm – 3:50 pm **From Science Fiction to Reality: Setting the Stage for How We Got Here**

Russell N. Van Gelder, MD, PhD – Editor, OPHTHALMOLOGY, American Academy of Ophthalmology

3:50 pm – 4:05 pm **Promises: Harnessing the Potential Benefits of AI in Healthcare and Ophthalmology**

Peter Campbell, MD, MPH – Associate Professor of Ophthalmology; Oregon Health & Science University, Casey Eye Institute

4:05 pm – 4:20 pm **Pitfalls: What are the Risks and Challenges of AI in Healthcare and Ophthalmology**

Kristen Nwanyanwu, MD, MBA, MHS – Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Yale School of Medicine

4:20 pm – 4:35 pm **Use of AI in the Real World**

R.V. Paul Chan, MD, MSc, MBA – Department Head and John H. Panton, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, University of Illinois at Chicago

4:35 pm – 4:50 pm **FDA Insights on the Current & Future Regulation of AI in Ophthalmology**

Malvina Eydelman, MD - Director of Office of Ophthalmic, Anesthesia, Respiratory, ENT and Dental Services, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

4:50 pm – 5:00 pm **Artificial Intelligence and the Role of Medical Specialty Societies**

Sally L. Baxter, MD, MSc - Member, Committee on Artificial Intelligence, American Academy of Ophthalmology

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm **Q&A**

5:30 pm **End of Session**

Thursday, April 18
Council

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm **Council Regional Chair Orientation – *by invitation only***

Meeting Room 5

Moderators: Prem S. Subramanian, MD, PhD - Council Chair
Lee A. Snyder, MD - Council Vice Chair

Council Regional Meeting chairs are invited to attend a special orientation including a review of the agenda for the regional meetings and responsibilities of facilitating the meetings

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm **OPHTHPAC VIP Reception Featuring Members of Congress – *by invitation only***

11th Floor Terrace, Room 1128

Members contributing to OPHTHPAC at a specific dollar amount are formally invited to this VIP Reception. Invitations will be confirmed at the door. To check your giving history or to make an investment, **contact Meredith Allison at mallison@aao.org or call 202.587.5831.**

Thursday, April 18, continued
Politics. Policy. Practice Management.

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Welcome Reception and Awards Banquet** - *Join us for an evening of celebration and enlightenment*

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm **Reception**

Anacostia Ballroom: Salon D & E

7:00 pm – 9:00pm **Dinner**

Potomac Ballroom: Salon 1 & 2

Keynote Speaker: Margaret "Peggy" Tighe – Principal, Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville
Topic: Policy & Politics: What to Expect in 2024 and Beyond

9:15 pm – 11:00 pm **Surgical Scope Fund Reception – *by invitation only***

Crimson Whiskey Bar – Basement level
627 H Street, NW
Must be 21 to attend & photo ID is required upon entry. No exceptions!

In appreciation for your support of Surgery by Surgeons in 2024, we invite you to join us to attend this special event. If you have any questions or need to check your giving history, **contact Jackie Schneck at jschneck@aao.org or call 202.587.5828.**

Friday, April 19
Politics. Policy. Practice Management.

Commercial support provided in part by Allergan and Genentech – Gold Level

7:00 am – 5:00 pm **Registration/Information**

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Continental Breakfast**

Friday, April 19
Council

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Orientation for New Councilors – *by invitation only***

River Birch Room

Breakfast available at 6:30 am. Orientation starts promptly at 7:00 am.

Moderators: Prem S. Subramanian, MD, PhD - Council Chair
Lee A. Snyder, MD - Council Vice Chair

New Councilors are invited to attend a special orientation that includes an overview of Council operational procedures and Councilor responsibilities.

Friday, April 19, continued
Politics. Policy. Practice Management.

8:15 AM – 9:45 AM **HEARINGS (CONCURRENT HEARINGS)**
#1. POWER OF PAYMENT POLICY
#2. ADVANCING EQUITABLE EYE CARE DELIVERY

HEARING #1. POWER OF PAYMENT POLICY

Potomac Ballroom: Salons 1 & 2

Moderators: John T. McAllister, MD – Secretary for Federal Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Michael X. Repka, MD, MBA, President-Elect; Medical Director, Government Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology

While fee-for-service may cover only half of Medicare beneficiaries, the power of the payment and coverage policies set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services remains strong. The coverage policies developed through Medicare's national and local coverage determination processes are heavily utilized by both public and commercial payors. The process for Medicare's coverage development has changed significantly in recent years, relying less upon physician experts. Join us to hear how the ophthalmic community is advocating in response to overly restrictive coverage policies and advocating for patient access to sight-saving care.

8:15 am – 8:25 am **Primer: How Federal Payment Policy Came to Be**
Brandy Keys, MPH – Director, Healthy Policy, American Academy of Ophthalmology

8:25 am – 8:40 am **Medicare National & Local Coverage Determinations**
John T. McAllister, MD – Secretary for Federal Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology

8:40 am – 8:55 am **Evolution of LCD Process & 21st Century Cures Act**
Anna Luisa Di Lorenzo, MD – Trustee-at-Large, American Academy of Ophthalmology

8:55 am – 9:15 am **Trickle-down Effects: Impacts on Patients, Medicaid Policy, & Commercial Payors**
Michael X. Repka, MD, MBA – President-Elect; Medical Director, Government Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology

9:15 am – 9:30 am **Advocacy Case Study: MIGS (Medicare, UHC, and Cigna)**
Geoffrey T. Emerick, MD – Board Member and Patient Care Committee Chair, American Glaucoma Society

9:30 am – 9:45 am **Q&A**

9:45 am **End of Session**

HEARING #2. ADVANCING EQUITABLE EYE CARE DELIVERY

Potomac Ballroom: Salon 3

Moderators: Maria A. Woodward, MD, MS - Chair, Task Force on Ophthalmology in Community Health Centers, American Academy of Ophthalmology; Associate Professor, Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan

This session will highlight efforts to address disparities in eye care delivery and ophthalmology's leading role in identifying novel solutions to these challenges. Attendees will learn about federal initiatives to advance health equity, as well as the progress that ophthalmologists are making in their community and whether successful models can be scaled to address vision health disparities across the country. Attendees will also hear congressional perspectives on the importance of advancing health equity and aligned legislative priorities.

8:15 am – 8:25 am **Introduction and Overview of AAO Efforts**
Maria A. Woodward, MD, MS – Chair, Task Force on Ophthalmology in Community Health Centers, American Academy of Ophthalmology; Associate Professor, Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan

8:25 am – 8:35 am **Addressing Barriers to Access in Pediatric Eye Care**
Jane C. Edmond, MD – President, American Academy of Ophthalmology; Chair and Professor, Dell Children's Hospital

8:35 am – 8:45 am **Understanding Current Eye Care Disparities**
Victoria L. Tseng, MD, PhD - Assistant Professor, UCLA Department of Ophthalmology

8:45 am – 8:55 am **Expanding Diabetic Retinopathy Screening in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Communities**
Dara Shahon, MD – Director, Indian Health Service - JVN Teleophthalmology Program

8:55 am – 9:05 am **Screening and Interventions for Glaucoma in High-Risk Populations**
Lindsay A. Rhodes, MD, MSPH – Glaucoma Specialist, Private Practice, Eyecare Medical Group; Task Force on Ophthalmology in Community Health Centers, American Academy of Ophthalmology

9:05 am – 9:15 am **Promoting a Diverse Ophthalmology Workforce**
Fasika A. Woreta, MD, MPH – Director, Ophthalmology Residency Program and Associate Professor, John Hopkins Medicine

9:15 am – 9:25 am **Strategies for Starting Screening Programs in Collaboration with Primary Care**
Jeffrey Henderer, MD – Dr. Edward Hagop Bedrossian Chair and Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University; Task Force on Ophthalmology in Community Health Centers, American Academy of Ophthalmology

9:25 am – 9:45 am **Q&A**

9:45 am **End of Session**

9:45 am – 10:15 am **Break**

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM **HEARINGS (CONCURRENT HEARINGS)**
#1. PREVENTING REVENUE CYCLE MANAGEMENT CATASTROPHES
#2. PRIVATE EQUITY, CO-MANAGEMENT, ETHICS, AND THE IMPACT ON ADVOCACY FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

HEARING #1. PREVENTING REVENUE CYCLE MANAGEMENT CATASTROPHES

Potomac Ballroom: Salons 1 & 2

Moderator: Ravi D. Goel, MD - Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice, American Academy of Ophthalmology

The cornerstone of a financially stable and thriving ophthalmic practice is a streamlined revenue cycle. Achieving success requires ophthalmologists to take an active role in monitoring performance, identifying threats, and the ability to rectify effectively. Successful strategies will be explored, including how to pivot from a high-level dashboard report to targeted data elements that can prompt actionable steps to avoid revenue cycle catastrophes. Attendees will receive access to a comprehensive Revenue Cycle Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) toolkit to implement into their practice.

10:15 am – 10:20 am **Introduction**
Ravi D. Goel, MD – Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice, American Academy of Ophthalmology

10:20 am – 10:34 am **The Physicians Role in Assessing RCM Vital Signs to Maintain a Healthy Revenue Cycle**
Robert E. Wiggins, MD, MHA –Past President, American Academy of Ophthalmology; Ophthalmologist, Asheville Eye Associates

10:34 am – 10:48 am **The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: Catastrophes Impacting Small Practices and How to Avoid Them**
Bradley Dean Fouraker, MD – Board Member, Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company (OMIC)

10:48 am – 11:02 am **Utilizing a Dashboard to Monitor Trends and Identify Red Flags**
Jessica Schroeder, MPH, CPC, OCS, OCSR – Board Member, American Academy of Ophthalmic Executives (AAOE); Practice Administrator, Cape Fear Retinal Associates

11:02 am – 11:16 am **It's All Relative: Analyzing Production, Cost, and Reimbursement with RVUs in Any Practice**
Sara Rapuano, MBA – Consultant

11:16 am – 11:30 am **Work Smarter: How Lean and AI Can Elevate Processes**
Alan E. Kimura, MD, MPH – Board Member, American Academy of Ophthalmic Executives (AAOE); Past President, Colorado Retina

11:30 am – 11:45 am **Q&A**

11:45 am **End of Session**

HEARING #2. PRIVATE EQUITY, CO-MANAGEMENT, ETHICS, AND THE IMPACT ON ADVOCACY FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Potomac Ballroom: Salon 3

Moderator: Sidney K. Gicheru, MD - Associate Secretary for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Advocacy, both on the federal and state level, is critical to ensure the highest quality eye care for patients, and the Academy's mission to safeguard patients and advance the profession of ophthalmology. In this session, we will be examining challenges and benefits ophthalmologists may face when they become acquired by—or proactively join—a private equity group, and the impact that private equity arrangements and co-management have on the Academy's advocacy agenda to protect the highest standards of surgical eye care. It is critical that all ophthalmologists acquired or employed by private equity understand their rights to advocate on behalf of their profession and their patients. This session will also explore the ethical and legal landscape for private equity group employed ophthalmologists. The goal of this session will be to examine positives and negatives of private equity and the impact that it may have on an Academy member's ability to speak publicly in support of Academy legislative and/or regulatory priorities, as well as potentially inadvertent violations of the Academy's Code of Ethics.

10:15 am – 10:25 am **Introduction**
Sidney K. Gicheru, MD – Associate Secretary for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology

10:25 am – 10:35 am **Legal Overview of Free Speech Rights for Privately Employed Ophthalmologists – the First Amendment and Employment Contracts**
Michael W. Stevens, JD – General Counsel and Vice President, Legal Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology

10:35 am – 10:50 am **Positive Benefits of Private Equity and Ensuring Your Right to Advocate**
Sohail J. Hasan, MD, PhD – Chair, OPHTHPAC Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology

10:50 am – 11:00 am **How PE and Co-Management Arrangements can Thwart a State Societies' Advocacy Efforts at the Local Level**
Leonard K. Seibold, MD – Regional Representative, Secretariat for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology

11:00 am – 11:10 am **Academy Policy Statement: Your Right to Advocate on Behalf of Your Patients and Profession: Is this Enough?**
Laura K. Green, MD – Trustee-at-Large and Associate Secretary for State Affairs, American Academy of Ophthalmology

11:10 am – 11:25 am **Private Equity and Ethical Duty to Patients, AAO Code of Ethics**
Carla J. Siegfried, MD – Chair, Ethics Committee, American Academy of Ophthalmology; Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

11:25 am – 11:45 am **Q&A**

11:45 am **End of Session**

12:15 pm – 2:00 pm **Luncheon and Closing Session**

Potomac Ballroom: Salons 1 & 2

Green Ophthalmology: From Passion to Policy to Impact

Moderator: Jeff H. Pettey, MD, MBA – Chair, Committee on Sustainability in Ophthalmology, American Academy of Ophthalmology; Vice-Chair of Clinical Affairs, Associate Professor at the University of Utah Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

The field of ophthalmology stands at a critical juncture where sustainability and environmental responsibility are not just global concerns but integral aspects of healthcare. The session aims to harness our community's collective energy and dedication towards creating a more sustainable future in ophthalmology. This session is designed for the diverse attendees of the MYF closing session, a group passionate about their profession and advocating for its future. By bringing together these highly motivated individuals, we aim to transform individual passion into collective action, leading to tangible impacts in the field of ophthalmology. Table discussions will be coordinated at the end of the session

12:45 pm – 2:00 pm

Welcome – Crafting our Future

Jeff H. Pettey, MD, MBA – Chair, Committee on Sustainability in Ophthalmology, American Academy of Ophthalmology; Vice-Chair of Clinical Affairs, Associate Professor at the University of Utah Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Creating a Culture of Sustainability

Nathan L. Scott, MD, MPP – Assistant Professor, Vitreoretinal Surgery; Division Chief, Ocular Oncology; Member, Committee on Sustainability in Ophthalmology, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Sustainability: YO Green Grant Project

Mahsaw Mansoor, MD – Resident, University of Iowa; Editorial Board Member, EyeSustain

Sustainability: Magnifying Our View for a Global Perspective

Sila Bal, MD, MPH – Global Ophthalmology Fellow, Moran Eye Center

Table Discussions & Presentations

Questions & Answers

Concluding Remarks

2:00 pm **End of Session**

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm **Break**

Friday, April 19
Council

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm **Council Opening Session**

Potomac Ballroom: Salons 1 & 2

Unite with your colleagues from ophthalmic state, subspecialty and specialized interest societies to discuss key issues facing our profession.

3:40 pm – 6:00 pm **Council Regional Meetings**

Refer to the Council Program Book for Room Assignments

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm OPHTHPAC Reception – *by invitation only*

La Vie, 88 District Square SW

OPHTHPAC members who contribute to OPHTHPAC in 2024 are invited to attend this lively cocktail reception with a full open bar and hors d'oeuvres. To check your giving history or to make an investment, **contact Meredith Allison at mallison@aao.org or call 202.587.5831.**

Saturday, April 20
Council

7:00 am – 1:00 pm **Meeting Information**

Potomac Ballroom Registration Desk

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Continental Breakfast**

Potomac Ballroom Foyer

8:00 am – 9:30 am **Council State Section Meeting**

Potomac Ballroom: Salon 1 & 2

8:00 am – 9:30 am **Council Subspecialty/Specialized Interest Section Meeting**

Potomac Ballroom: Salon 3

9:30 am – 10:00 am **Break**

Potomac Ballroom Foyer

10:00 am – 12:00 pm **Council Elections and Hearing on Council Advisory Recommendations**

Potomac Ballroom: Salon 1 & 2

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Council Luncheon**

Potomac Ballroom: Salon 3

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Future

Mid-Year Forum

Dates

April 2–5, 2025

April 15–18, 2026

April 7–10, 2027

April 5–8, 2028