

Highlights from the 2010 AAO meeting

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Record attendance at the AAO meeting in San Francisco (5,805 attendees)

This was another stellar year for Canadian presence at the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) annual meeting, held this year in San Francisco, California, in November. The meeting attracted a record attendance of over 5,800 attendees (the highest in AAO history). Optometrists, vision scientists, professors, residents and students all congregated for the four day event representing 39 countries, including 129

attendees from Canada. A record number of people (274) obtained their Fellow of the AAO (FAAO) at this year's meeting, eight of whom were Canadian, including Dr. Sally Chetrit (from Quebec and presently practicing in NYC), Dr. Meng Meng Xu (from Quebec and presently in Boston), Dr. Noumia Gill-Cloutier (from Quebec, and presently in Minnesota) and Dr. Nathalie Trottier (Quebec). Dr. Nancy Keir (CCLR-UWSO), Dr. Kristine

Dalton (CCLR-UWSO and now at Aston University), Dr. Ashley Firby (Windsor, Ontario) and Dr. Tehseena Ullah (Edmonton, Alberta) also received their fellowships. Congratulations to all the new fellows!

A changing of the guard also occurred at this year's meeting, with a new board consisting of Dr. Karla Zadnik as the new president. Other board members include Dr. Bernard Dolan, president-elect; Dr. Brett Bence,

secretary-treasurer; Dr. Mark Eger, immediate past president; and Dr. Barbara Caffery, from Toronto; Dr. Michael Harris; Dr. Timothy McMahon, from University of Waterloo; and Dr. Joseph Shovlin as members-at-large.

Both Canadian optometry schools had great representation at the meeting including participation at the continuing education lectures, photography contest, committee members, resident day, and the scientific program.

Student Membership

The Student/Faculty Liaison representatives from each school, Dr. Etty Bitton, Montreal and Dr. Luigina Sorbara, Waterloo attended the Student/Faculty Liaison committee meeting. Several topics were on the agenda, including the adoption of a one-time membership fee of \$30US for students, as opposed to an annual fee, as in the past. Student members receive the AAO's journal Optometry and Vision Science (OVS) as well as a reduced fee for attendance to the annual meeting. Student members are also eligible for travel grants, if they present during the annual meeting. Other strategies are being explored to further reduce student's expenses, related to the meeting and to boost attendance.

The École d'optométrie, Université de Montréal has just initiated an AAO student chapter as a way to increase student interest in the AAO and relay information more effectively. Claudine Courey, a third year student has accepted the challenge of being the first

“...I was thrilled to share my experience with my student colleagues when I got back home and look forward to many years of great continuing education and social networking thanks to the academy meeting...”

– Vanessa Bachir

AAO Quebec student chapter president. Events will be planned during the year to raise awareness of the AAO and raise funds to help alleviate some of the travel costs for next year's meeting in Boston.

École d'optométrie, Université de Montréal

The faculty, clinical faculty, optometry and post-graduate students at the École d'optométrie also had a very successful participation at this year's conference, with several continuing education and scientific presentations (Table 1).

Dr. Langis Michaud participated in a grand rounds lecture on cornea and contact lenses during the continuing education portion of the meeting entitled, 'Ellerbrock Presents Grand Rounds II' while Dr. Etty Bitton teamed up with Dr. Lyndon Jones (Waterloo) for a lecture entitled, 'Technologies for the Assessment of the Ocular Tear Film'. Dr. Michaud also received second place for his anterior segment photograph which captured cells in the anterior chamber.

Attendance also hit a new record at this year's meeting, with 104 attendees from Quebec! Many were first time attendees and found the networking very invigorating as well as benefitting from a

selection of lectures that they were able to choose depending on their individual interests. The students that attended also appreciated the variety of lectures and it exposed them to new speakers with a more clinical approach to each topic.

Vanessa Bachir (fourth year optometry student) summarized her experience, "I am thrilled to have decided to attend my first AAO meeting. I had heard many great comments about the meeting, but I have to say that my already high expectations were greatly surpassed. As a fourth year student, I really appreciated the chance to hear such great speakers share their varied clinical experiences from all facets of optometry. Each lecture that I attended allowed me to gain knowledge and introduced me to many clinical pearls that will be very useful in my future career. Not only was the academy a great learning experience, but also a way to reconnect with friends and meet interesting people. I was thrilled to share my experience with my student colleagues when I got back home and look forward to many years of great continuing education and social networking thanks to the academy meeting."

Claudine Courey (third year optometry student) received the

TABLE 1

École d'optométrie, Université de Montréal participation at the 2010 Annual AAO Meeting

Faculty	Author	Title of presentation
	Bitton E, Jones L	Technologies for the assessment of the ocular tear film (conference 1 hr)
	Bitton E, Sandroussy E, Theroux-Soucy M	Effect of tear lubricants on tear ferning patterns in dry eye patients (poster)
	Michaud Y, Néron-Gaudreault F, Frenette B	Resistance to heat of new generation anti-reflective coatings (poster)
	Lovasik JV, Kergoat H, Kergoat M-J, Racine N, Parent M	Changes in the retinal and optic nerve head perfusion with aging (poster)
	Kergoat H, Lovasik JV, Kergoat MJ, Racine N, Parent M	Retinal vessel pulsations in normals and runners (paper)
	Michaud L et al.	Ellerbrock presents Grand Rounds II (conference 2 hrs)
	Renaud J, Overbury O, Durand MJ	Depressive symptoms are linked to social participation in older adults with visual impairment (paper)
	Allard R, Renaud J, Faubert J	No cross-frequency facilitation for old observers (poster)
Students		
Master's Resident	Abbas Farishta R, Robert C, Vanni MP, Minville K, Bouchard JF, Casanova C	Functional organization of the primary visual cortex of mice lacking cannabinoid CB1 receptors (poster)
	Gaboury K, Simard M-E, Corbeil M-E, de Guise D	Comparison of three visual acuity charts in subjects with unilateral amblyopia (poster)
	Duponsel N, Wittich W, Dubuc S, Overbury O	Correlation of vision loss and mild cognitive impairment as found on the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) scale (paper)
PhD/post-doc	Hanssens JM, Turpin-Lavallée P, Soowamber R, Faubert J	Older people are more vulnerable to visually induced postural instability during complex multitask cognitive conditions (poster)
	Wittich, W, Watanabe D, Faubert J, Kapusta M, Overbury O	Spatial Interval discrimination in patients with retinitis pigmentosa (paper)

Essilor Student Travel Fellowship to attend the meeting for the first time. Joel Bainbridge-Bérubé (fourth year optometry student) and Dr. Jean-Marie Hanssens (PhD student) received the Carl Zeiss Vision Student Travel Fellowship. Dr. Katherine Gaboury (resident) and Nathalie Duponsel (master's student) received a travel

fellowship from an educational grant from The Vision Care Institute, LLC. Dr. Judith Renaud (PhD student) was the recipient of the Brazelton Low Vision Student Travel Fellowship.

School of Optometry, University of Waterloo

The School of Optometry at the University of Waterloo (UW) also

had a very successful participation at this year's conference, with honours going to Dr. Thomas Freddo, professor and Director at the school who was awarded the Carel C. Koch Memorial Award from the AAO for his pioneer work in fostering relationships between optometry and ophthalmology. Numerous presentations by faculty, undergrad and graduate



Dr. Thomas Freddo receives the Carel Koch Award from AAO President Mark Eger



Dr. Kathrine Gaboury (resident) and Dr. Marie-Eve Simard present a poster at the scientific section of the AAO.



Dr. Sally Chetrit completes the requirements for Fellowship of the AAO (as shown by the yellow ribbon)

students from UW contributed to the success of this year's AAO meeting (Table 2).

Dr. Thomas Freddo also delivered to full attendance rooms two continuing education talks. The first was titled, 'The Pathobiology

of Aqueous Production, Drainage and Mechanisms of Drug Action in Primary Open Angle Glaucoma' and the second, 'Understanding the Clinical Significance of Common Retinal Lesions'. Dr. Luigina Sorbara lectured on 'Case Studies on Fitting Keratoconus Patients with the use of Videokeratoscope'. Several students were recipients of a variety of awards, including Vidhyapriya Sreenivasan and Kristine Dalton who are both B+L Ezell Fellows. Jenna Hildebrand, Doerte Luensmann, Jyotsna Maram, Subam Basuthkar Sundar Rao and Marc Schulze all received student travel fellowships to attend the meeting from the Vision Care Institute, LLC, Educational Grants. Aaron Chan was the recipient of the Essilor Education Grant. Graham Berg and Alex Hui were both recipients of the Carl Zeiss Vision Award and Lindsey Wegner

was awarded the Allergan Educational Grant.

Dr. Alex Hui and David McCanna were awarded the Vista-kon® Research Grant (\$10,000) for their research entitled, 'Engineering of Novel Contact Lens Materials for Ciprofloxacin Drug Delivery'. Drs. William Bobier, Peter Shaw, Debbie Jones and Tim McMahon were awarded the American Optometric Foundation/Essilor Optical Technology Grant (\$20,000) for a project entitled, 'Implementation of Novel Computerized Software to Enhance Lens Design During Ophthalmic Dispensing'.

Many friends, colleagues, educators, researchers and industry representatives gathered for a special celebration to highlight the exceptional work and contributions of Dr. Desmond Fonn, professor and Founding Director

of the Center for Contact Lens Research (CCLR) and to celebrate his upcoming retirement. Accolades from esteemed colleagues such as Dr. Brien Holden and many others were on hand to share some of his fundamental contributions in CL research. A graduate student endowment scholarship has been established in his honor and pledges can be made on-line (ecommunity.uwaterloo.ca/SSL-Page.aspx?pid=199), however it is necessary to designate the pledge under “Other – Desmond Fonn Graduate Award”.

Canadians at the heart of the AAO

Many Canadians are actively involved in the many committees of the AAO. To name a few, Dr. Barbara Caffery (Toronto) and Dr. Tim McMahon (UW) are both re-elected as Board members. Dr. Lyndon Jones (UW) is chair of the Research Committee and is a member of the Awards committee as well as on the editorial board of OVS. Dr. Kathryn Dumbleton (UW) is the president-elect of the American Optometric Foundation (AOF). Dr. John Flanagan (UW) chairs the Admittance committee

for scientists and researchers and is the president of the Optometric Glaucoma Society. Dr. Etty Bitton (UM) and Dr. Luigina Sorbara (UW) both serve on the Student/Faculty Liaison committee. Dr. Catherine Chiarelli (Toronto) is the chair of the International Admittance Committee.

Next year's meeting is surely to break even more records for Canadians. So mark your calendar for October 12-15, 2011 in Boston at the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center. See you there!

TABLE 2

School of Optometry, University of Waterloo participation at the 2010 AAO Meeting

	Paper presentations	
	Authors	Title of presentation
Faculty	Wheat, Joe L.; Flanagan, John; Twa, Michael	Comparison of global measurements from the Heidelberg edge perimetry with standard automated perimetry in glaucoma patients
Faculty/CLAY	Kinoshita, Beth T.; Mitchell, G. Lynn; Lam, Dawn, Y.; Chalmers, Robin; Wagner, Heidi; Jansen, Meredith; Richdale, Kathryn; Sorbara, Luigina	Prescribing patterns of soft contact lens wear in North America
Faculty/CCLR	Sorbara, Luigina; Richter, Doris; McNally, John; Peterson, Rachael; Schneider, Simone; Woods, Craig; Jones, Lyndon; Fonn, Desmond	Comparison between live and digital slit lamp images of corneal staining
Faculty/CCLR	Keir, Nancy J.; Schneider, Simone; Woods, Craig; Fonn, Desmond	The assessment of <i>in vivo</i> wettability between silicone hydrogel materials and over time
Faculty/CCLR	Dumbleton, Kathryn A.; Richter Doris; Woods, Craig; Jones, Lyndon; Fonn, Desmond	Relationship between compliance with lens replacement and contact lens-related problems in silicone hydrogel wearers
Faculty/CCLR	Woods, Craig A.; Dumbleton Kathy A.; Richter Doris; Jones Lyndon; Fonn Desmond	Compliance with lens care and contact lens case care and replacement
Faculty/CCLR	Fonn, Desmond; Moezzi, Amir; Richter, Doris; Woods, Craig, A.	Can overnight lens induced corneal swelling be minimised to equal no lens wear regardless of oxygen transmissibility?
PhD student	Basuthkar Sundar Rao, Subam; Simpson, Trefford	Does vision impact ratings of ocular comfort?
Faculty/CCLR	Keir, Nancy J.; Simpson, Trefford; Fonn, Desmond	Visual and optical performance of silicone hydrogel contact lenses for moderate myopia

Table 2 continued

Faculty/CLAY	Chalmers, Robin L.; Wagner, Heidi; Mitchell, G. Lynn; Kinoshita, Beth; Jansen, Meredith; Lam, Dawn, Y.; Richdale, Kathryn; Sorbara, Luigina	The role of overnight wear in corneal inflammatory events from the Contact Lens Assessment in Youth (CLAY) study
	Poster presentations	
Faculty/CCLR	Jones, Lyndon; Jones, Rebecca	<i>In vitro</i> bulk dehydration rates of hydrogel and silicone hydrogel daily disposable and frequent replacement contact lens materials
Faculty	Dain, Stephen J.; Yuen, Gloria; Chou, B. Ralph; Ngo, Thao; Cheng, Brian	Prescription compliance in ophthalmic lenses
Faculty	Hrynychak, Patricia K.; Middlestaedt, Andrea; Machan, Carolyn M.; Irving, Elizabeth L.	Modifications to the subjective refraction when prescribing spectacles
Faculty/CCLR	Young, Graeme; Chalmers, Robin; Napier, Leslie; Kern, Jami; Dumbleton, Kathryn	Not all dryness symptoms in soft contact lens wearers relate to signs of dryness
PhD	Maram, Jyotsna; Sorbara, Luigina; Simpson, Trefford; Bizheva, Kostadinka	Anterior segment optical coherence tomography: non-contact ultra high resolution imaging of contact lens edge profiles
PhD	Sreenivasan, Vidhyapriya; Irving, Elizabeth; Bobier, William	Binocular versus monocular accommodation in myopic and emmetropic children with different near phorias
PhD	Sreenivasan, Vidhyapriya; Irving, Elizabeth; Bobier, William	Phoria adaptation to near work in myopic and emmetropic children with different phorias
	Robinson, Barbara E.	Canadian uncorrected refractive error study
Faculty/CCLR	Schulze, Marc M.; Simpson Trefford L.; Feng, Yunwei; Lucchetti, Ernest; Chou, B. Ralph; Hutchings, Natalie	Statistical approach for differentiating happy and unhappy progressive addition lens wearers
UG/Faculty	Hildebrand, Jenna M.; Cooper, Susan	International optometric bridging program: the correlation between prior learning assessment and Canadian standard assessment in optometry outcomes
Faculty	Steenbakkens, Michelle	Sturge-Weber syndrome and associated glaucoma: a case report
Faculty	Steenbakkens, Michelle; Prokopich, C. Lisa	W.A.G.R. syndrome: a case report
Faculty/CLAY	Wagner, Heidi; Mitchell, G. Lynn; Chalmers, Robin; Jansen, Meredith; Kinoshita, Beth; Lam, Dawn, Y.; Richdale, Kathryn; Sorbara, Luigina	Characteristics of and risk factors for multiple ocular events that interrupt soft contact lens (SCL) wear in youth
Faculty/CCLR	Luensmann, Doerte; Keir, Nancy; Woods, Craig; Fonn, Desmond	Performance of visual acuity and contrast sensitivity tests with multifocal contact lenses
Faculty	Leat, Susan J.; Briand, Karine; Hamaed, Nabiha	The impact of near additions on reading performance in pre-presbyopes with low vision
Faculty	Leat, Susan J.; Maharaj, Priya; Hrynychak, Patricia K.; Mittelstaedt, Andrea; Machan, Carolyn M.; Irving, Elizabeth L.	The prevalence of binocular vision anomalies in the elderly
MSc	Almoqbel, Fahad M.; Irving, Elizabeth L.; Leat, Susan J.	Development of visual acuity and contrast sensitivity in children: comparison of sweep VEP and psychophysics
	Press conference presentation	
Faculty	Leat, Susan J.; Maharaj, Priya; Hrynychak, Patricia K.; Mittelstaedt, Andrea; Machan, Carolyn M.; Irving, Elizabeth L.	The prevalence of binocular vision anomalies in the elderly