

REVIEW

Magical Moments in Anaheim! 2016 Annual American Academy of Optometry Meeting



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There seemed to be magic in the air at the 2016 Annual American Academy of Optometry meeting in Anaheim, California. The meeting once again set an attendance record of 7,720 attendees representing 53 nations. A total of 315 Canadians made the trip south, including 81 students from Quebec (Figure 1), 32 students from Waterloo, and a significant number of former UW students from the Waterloo class of 2016 (Figure 2).

Fig 1: An impressive 119 attendees from Quebec were at the meeting, including a record number (81) of students.



Fig 2: Current and former UW students and residents reunited at the Second Annual Canadian School Alumni & Friends Reception



In addition to the attendance record, the annual meeting saw a record number of Fellows join the Academy. The largest-ever fellowship class consisted of 267 candidates, including 13 Canadians, all of whom earned the distinction FAAO at this year's meeting (Figure 3). The 2016 class of Canadian Fellows can be found in Table 1 – Congratulations to all!

Fig 3: Etty Bitton (representing UM), Debbie Jones (Interim Director of UW) and Lyndon Jones (Director of the CCLR) welcome the group to the Canadian Alumni & Friends reception.



Table 1: *New Fellows from Canada in 2016*

Name	Province
Benoit Tousignant	Quebec
Blake Dornstauder	Alberta
Debby Yeung	Ontario
Estefania Chriqui	Quebec
Kalpana Rose	Ontario
Krista Bruni	Ontario
Luigi Bilotto	Quebec
Michelle Chan	Ontario
Mohamed Moussa	Ontario
Nicole Maierhoffer	Saskatchewan
Stephanie Britton	Ontario
Vincent Moore	Quebec
Yuen Ying Jacqueline Chan	Alberta

Fellows of the AAO include optometrists, scientists, educators, librarians, administrators, and editors who have demonstrated a commitment to pursuing optometry and vision science at the highest level – either in practice or in the pursuit of professional excellence. To become a Fellow of the AAO, candidates must have accumulated 50 points through written work (for more details, see <http://www.aaopt.org/becoming/efellowship>) before they are invited for a peer-review interview process at the annual meeting.

Fellows of the AAO are eligible to join any (or all) of the numerous sections or special interest groups (SIGs) the Academy offers. Sections of the Academy include groups such as the Low Vision Section, the Glaucoma Section, the Comprehensive Eye Care Section, the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies, and the Optometric Education Section, amongst others. SIGs include groups such as the Fellows Doing Research SIG and the Nutrition, Disease Prevention and Wellness SIGs. More details on the AAO's sections and SIGs can be found on the AAO website (<http://www.aaopt.org/sections-sigs>).

Fellows of the Academy are now required to participate in a Maintenance of Fellowship (MOF) program, which requires that they obtain 15 points over a period of 10 years. Points can be obtained in a variety of ways, including attending the annual meeting, volunteering for the AAO and presenting in either the scientific or continuing education programs. Details of the MOF program can also be found on the Academy's website (<http://www.aaopt.org/fellows/mof>). It is important to note that the MOF program requirements only apply to Fellows who obtained their fellowship in 2010 or later; they do not apply to Fellows who obtained their fellowship in 2009 or earlier.

In addition to the 12 new Canadian FAAs honoured in 2016, 8 students from Waterloo and an impressive 54 students from Montreal (new records for both schools) completed their Student Fellowships. Student fellowships require students to participate in several different aspects of the AAO meeting to gain a better understanding of all that the AAO has to offer. To complete a Student Fellowship, students must attend different activities during the meeting, such as a poster session, lectures, a symposium, the exhibit hall to meet vendors, etc. Student Fellows of the AAO are recognised with a certificate and a pin after the meeting – congratulations to all our new Student Fellows!

This meeting marked the second anniversary of the now annual Canadian School Alumni & Friends Reception, co-hosted by the University of Waterloo, University of Montreal and Center for Contact Lens Research (CCLR). Dr. Etty Bitton (on behalf of Montreal) and Dr. Debbie Jones (Interim Director of Waterloo) brought news and greetings from both of their institutions and Dr. Lyndon Jones (Director of the CCLR) represented CCLR (Figure 4), while classmates, colleagues and friends enjoyed the opportunity to catch up over delicious food and drinks.

Fig 4: Educators from Canadian optometry schools receive their FAAO. (Drs. Benoit Tousignant (UM), Debbie Yeung (UW), Stephanie Britton (UW), Stephanie Chriqui (UM), Luigi Bilotto (UM)) Congratulations to all!



Fig 5: Etty Bitton (UM), Sruthi Srinivasan (UW), Tanya Polonenko (UW; private practice), William Ngo (UW) and Sarah Aumond (UM) catch up at the Second Annual Canadian Alumni & Friends reception



Not only were Canadians making their presence known through their attendance at the meeting, but the Canadian schools once again made a strong contribution to the scientific and continuing education programs.

Students, graduate students, research associates, adjunct faculty, and faculty from both of the Canadian Schools of Optometry were responsible for an impressive 58 items in the program, including CE talks, scientific presentations, workshops and symposiums (Figures 6-9). Details of these presentations can be found in Tables 2-5.

Table 2: Contributions from faculty, research associates and post-doctoral fellows of the École d'optométrie, Université de Montréal

Author (s)	Title of presentation	Type of presentation
Bitton E	Daily Disposables: Taking it one day at a time	CE Conference
Bitton E, Crncich V, Brunet N	Does a temperature change affect the comfort of artificial tears?	Poster
Hanssens JM, Roddy G, Ellenberg D	Ocular physiology exercised induced changes in intraocular pressure is related to systemic dehydration	Poster + 3min talk
Hanssens JM, Lacroix E, Voyer P, Diaconu V, Frenette B	Tint intensity and size of sunglasses influence the pupil diameter in bright-light conditions	Poster
Michaud L	1) Rapid fire: Controversies in contact lenses 2) Ellerbrock presents: Grand rounds II 3) Scleral or hybrids: The ultimate showdown 4) Scleral lens workshop	1) CE Conference 2) CE Conference 3) CE Conference 4) Workshop
Kergoat H, Irving EL, Law C, Chriqui E, Kergoat MJ, Leclerc BS, Panisset M, Postuma R	Feasibility study for orthoptic treatment of convergence insufficiency in Parkinson's disease	Poster

Table 3: Contributions from faculty, research associates and post-doctoral fellows of the School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of Waterloo

Authors (s)	Title of presentation	Type of presentation
Adams A, Jones L, Papas E, Markoulli M, Gifford P, Willcox M, Subbaraman L	OVS presents: Revolutionary uses of contact lenses	CE Conference
Back A, Chamberlain P, Logan N, Jones D, González-Méjome J, Saw SM, Young G	Clinical evaluation of a dual-focus myopia control 1-day soft contact lens: 2-year results	Paper
Babu R, Raveendran RN	Suppression on the Worth-4-Dot test and its relationship to stereo acuity	Poster
Belmonte C, Simpson T, McNamara N	Monroe J. Hirsch Memorial Research Symposium: The Distressed Eye: Ocular Pain	Symposium Speaker
Chamberlain P, Back A, Jones L, Logan N, Peixoto de Matos S, Saw S, Young G	Parental perspectives on their child wearing daily disposable soft contact lenses in a multicenter clinical study	Poster
Chamberlain P, Back A, Woods J, Logan N, Peixoto de Matos S, Saw S, Young G	Wearer experience and subjective responses with a dual focus myopia control 1-day soft contact lens	Poster
Christian L, Steenbakkers M, MacIver S	Evaluation of the attitudes of interprofessional education in optometry students	Poster
Dalton K, Willms A	Establishment of coincidence anticipation baseline measures	Poster
Dalton K, Willms A	Visuomotor reaction time deficits in athletes with a history of concussion	Poster

Furtado NM, Tsang TH, Ho DY	Comparative study examining various approaches to reducing exposure to high-energy visible light from digital devices	Poster
Haines L, Giddens E, Sorbara L	Retrospective review of scleral contact lens fitting at a contact lens clinic in an academic institution	Poster
Heynen M, Qiao H, Subbaraman L, Scales C, Riederer D, Fadli Z, Jones L	Location of non-polar lipids in monthly replacement silicone hydrogel contact lens materials	Poster
Hrynchak P, Labreche T	Residency In-training Evaluation Report (ITER) as an assessment method	Poster
Irving EL, Sivak A, Spafford MM	What the public knows and doesn't know about eye care and eye care professionals	Paper
Subbaraman L, Applegate R, Walline J, Bakaraju R	Ezell Fellows present: The future of optical interventions is now	Session Moderator
Kaminski J, Sheedy J, Woods J, Cunningham D	Vision in Aging SIG symposium: Presbyopia: Contemporary options for the modern patient	Symposium Speaker
Kergoat H, Irving EL, Law C, Chriqui E, Kergoat MJ, Leclerc BS, Panisset M, Postuma R	Feasibility study for orthoptic treatment of convergence insufficiency in Parkinson's disease	Poster
Ngo W	Challenges in dry eye research	CE Conference
Ngo W, Srinivasan S, Jones L	Comparison of dry eye tests between symptomatic and asymptomatic age-matched females	Poster
Nosch D, Pult H, Purslow C, Albon J, Murphy P	Is there a correlation between the degree of iris pigmentation and corneal sensitivity?	Poster
MacIver S	Papers: Public Health and Patient Quality of Life	Session Moderator
MacIver S, Christain L	A collaborative primary eye care model to improve adherence to eye exams in patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus	Paper
MacIver S, Harrison W, Ruskin D, Chous AP	A screening dietary questionnaire can help identify individuals at higher risk for macular degeneration	Poster
Moezzi A, Varikooty J, Luensmann D, Ng A, Schulze M, Karkkainen T, Xu J, Jones L	Open-eye clinical performance of etafilcon A multifocal daily disposable hydrogel contact lenses compared to habitual silicone hydrogel lens wear	Poster
Pang PCK, Lam CSY, Ko KC, Chu G, Chan LYL, Hess RF, Thompson B	Change of fixation stability, visual acuity and stereopsis in mild amblyopes after home-based dichoptic video game training	Poster
Pucker A, Jones-Jordan L, Kwan J, Kunnen C, Srinivasan S	Race, ethnicity, and lifestyle choice associations with meibomian gland atrophy	Paper
Schulze M, Wong A, Haider S, Ebare K, Fadli Z, Coles-Brennan C, Jones L	Blink rate in silicone hydrogel contact lens wearers during digital device use	Poster
Sivak A, Spafford MM, Irving EL	Patient views on internet purchasing of eyewear	Poster + 3min talk
Situ P, Simpson T, Begley C	Effects of experimental tear film instability on sensory responses to corneal cold stimuli in symptomatic and asymptomatic contact lens wearers	Paper

Table 4: *Presentations by optometry students from Canadian schools*

Authors (s)	Title of presentation	Type of presentation
Keeling A, Leat SJ, Zecevic AA, Hileeto D, Labreche T, Brennan D, Brymer C (Waterloo)	Vision loss and falls among hospital in-patients: A case-control study	Poster
Le-Minh LA, Hanssens JM (Montreal)	Establishing a template for quality assurance guidelines in a large clinical setting	Poster
Milner-Lorti E, Radic D, Bitton E (Montreal)	The effect of curvature and mire resolution on different NIBUT instruments	Poster
Piciooreanu S, Thompson B, Dalton K (Waterloo)	Motor ocular dominance varies with test distance but sensory ocular dominance does not	Poster
Zakem M, Bitton E (Montreal)	Prevalence of Demodex folliculorum in a dry eye clinic setting	Poster

Table 5: *Presentations by residents and graduate students from Canadian schools*

Authors (s)	Title of presentation	Type of presentation
Alabdulkader B, Leat S (Waterloo)	Design and testing of the new BL Arabic continuous text near-acuity charts	Poster
Alghamdi M, Vallis LA, Hileeto D, Leat S (Waterloo)	The association between visual attention and body movement-controlled video games, balance and mobility in older adults	Poster
Muntz A, Subbaraman L, Jones L (Waterloo)	Is there an association between lid wiper epitheliopathy, lens type and contact lens discomfort?	Paper
Phan C, Walther H, Riederer D, Smith R, Subbaraman L, Jones L (Waterloo)	Determination of the release of wetting agents from nelfilcon A using a novel in vitro eye model	Poster
Qiao H, Phan C, Walther H, Subbaraman L, Jones L (Waterloo)	Localizing lysozyme deposition on contact lenses using a novel in vitro eye model	Paper
Rose K, Krema H, Durairaj P, Dangboon W, Chavez Y, Kulasekara S, Hudson C (Waterloo)	Retinal perfusion changes in developing proliferative retinopathy post-brachytherapy for choroidal melanoma	Paper
Walther H, Phan C, Qiao H, Liu Y, Subbaraman L, Jones L (Waterloo)	In vitro eye model to simulate the impact of blinking on contact lens deposition and drug delivery	Paper
Yeung D, Sorbara L, Markoulli M (Waterloo)	MMP-9 and TIMP-1 analysis in tears of scleral lens wearers: Pilot study	Paper

Fig 6: Helene Kergoat (UM) and Elizabeth Irving (UW) collaborated on a study on binocular vision problems in patients with Parkinson Disease.

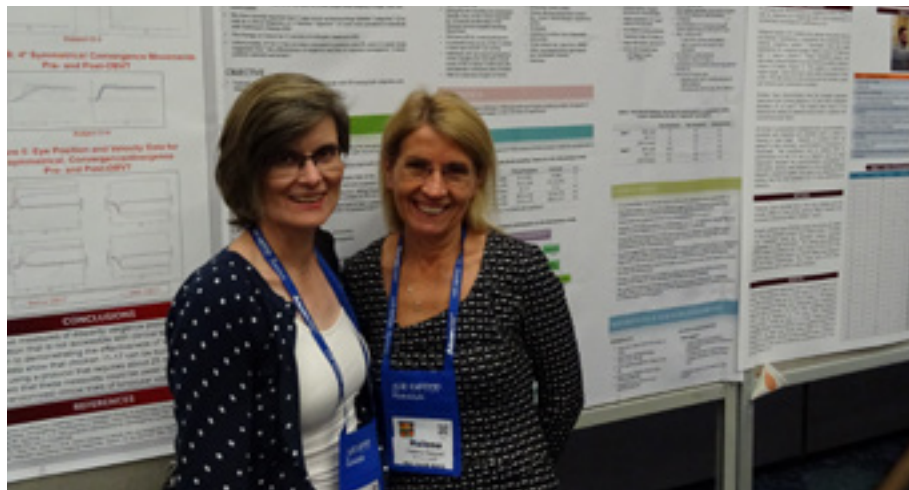


Fig 7: (A) Michelle Zakem, UM optometry student, and (B) Sergiu Picioreanu, UW optometry student, presented their first-ever posters at the AAO.

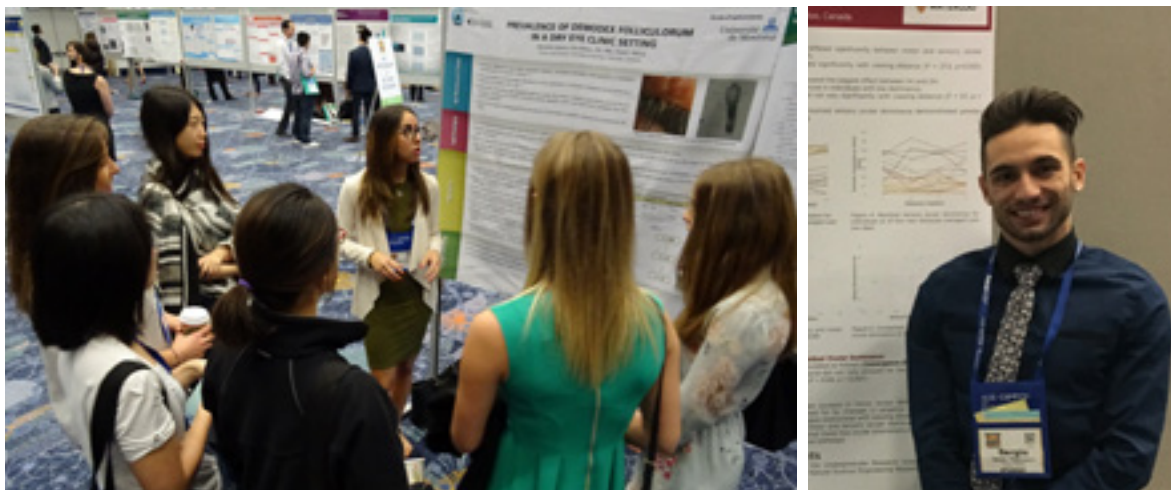


Fig 8: Miriam Heynen, research associate at the CCLR, presenting her first poster at the AAO.

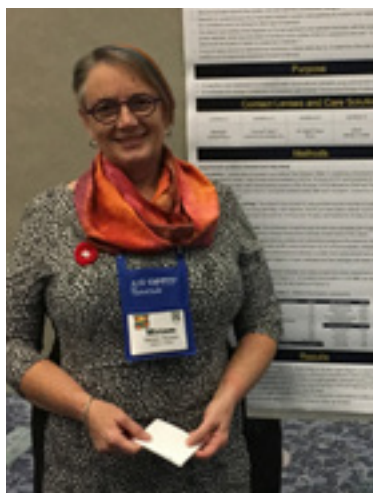
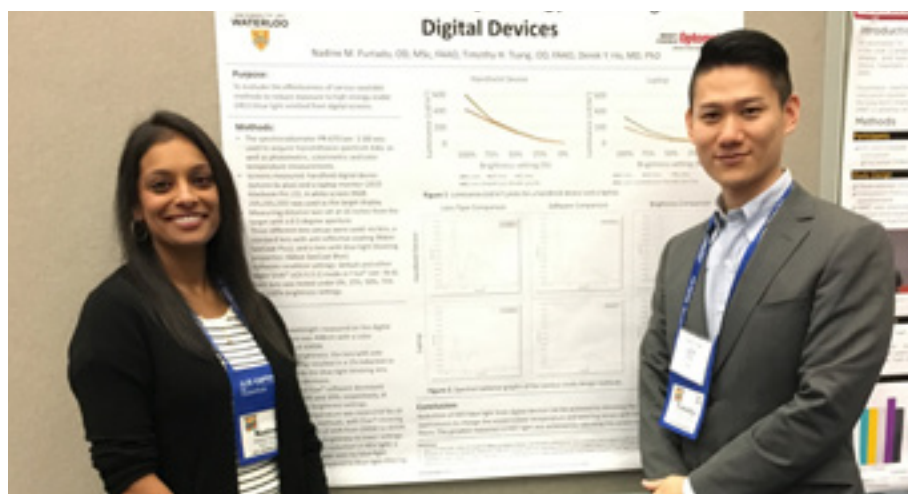


Fig 9: Nadine Furtado (UW) and Timothy Tsang (private practice) collaborated on a study examining various approaches to reducing exposure to high-energy visible light from digital devices.



Trefford Simpson from UW was one of three speakers honoured in the Monroe J. Hirsch Memorial Research Symposium, “The Distressed Eye: Ocular Pain”. Alisa Sivak, Marlee Spafford and Elizabeth Irving’s poster “Patient Views on Internet Purchasing of Eyewear” (UW) and Jean-Marie Hanssens, G Roddy and Dave Ellenberg’s poster “Ocular physiology exercised induced changes in intraocular pressure is related to systemic dehydration” (Montreal) were both selected by the Academy Communications Committee as two of the ten most-newsworthy posters at the 2016 Annual Meeting, and the authors were invited to present their research at the annual press conference. (Figure 10).

Fig 10: Marlee Spafford, Alisa Sivak and Elizabeth Irving (UW) at their newsworthy poster “Patient Views on Internet Purchasing of Eyewear.”



Several optometry students from both schools also won awards.

J. Pat Cummings Scholarship

Brij Patel (3rd yr student, Waterloo)
Michelle Zakem (3rd yr student, Montreal)

Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care (Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.)

Paul Lamothe, OD (Class of 2016, Montreal)
Alexis Keeling, OD (Class of 2016, Waterloo)

AOF –VSP/FYi Doctors Scholarship

Victoria Lomax (4th yr student, Waterloo)
Karin Lypka (4th yr student, Waterloo)
Solange Lacroix (4th yr student, Montreal)
Annie-Pier Leblanc (4th yr student, Montreal)

Essilor Student Travel Fellowship

Alexander McKeen, (3rd yr student, Waterloo)
Maxime MacGregor (4th yr student, Montreal)

Student Travel Fellowship funded by an educational grant from Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.)

Sergiu Picioreanu (3rd year student, Waterloo)
Han Qiao (MSc candidate, Waterloo)
Kalpana Rose (PhD candidate, Waterloo)
Hendrik Walther (PhD candidate, Waterloo)
Michelle Zakem (3rd yr student, Montreal)
Lili-Anh Le Minh (4th yr student, Montreal)
Eric Lortie-Milner (4th yr student, Montreal)

Allergan Resident Travel Fellowships

Caroline Plasse (OD, Montreal)
Anne-Sophie Buteau (OD, Montreal)

Award recipients from the 2016 meeting included Alan Tomlinson (honorary degree-holder from UW), who received the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies Founders award, and Tammy Labreche and Kristine Dalton (UW), who received a Fredrick Rosemore Low Vision Education Grant. Several students from both schools were also recognized with travel grants and scholarships (listed below). Congratulations to all of the 2016 honorees and award recipients!

Finally, a trip to the annual AAO meeting would not be complete without attending the always interesting and thought-provoking plenary session. Canada's own Malcolm Gladwell (best-selling author, *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*) spoke about the Current State of Healthcare and Research. Gladwell presented a very interesting discussion of the types of problems we face when making decisions about healthcare today, including "puzzles" (where we have too little information) and "mysteries" (where we have too much information). As we enter the age of big data and personalized medicine, Gladwell's analysis of the dilemmas faced by healthcare was startlingly accurate.

Fig 11: Malcolm Gladwell speaking at the AAO Plenary Session: Current State of Healthcare and Research.



Looking back on the 2016 AAO meeting in Anaheim, it is apparent that there really was something magical about the Happiest Place on Earth! In October 2017, the Academy meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois. The report on Canadian contributions to the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry will be in the next issue. ●