I would like to begin by saying how honored and humbled I am with this opportunity to serve as President of the Florida Society of Ophthalmology (FSO). I am grateful to our outgoing President, Dr. Krishna Kishor, for his outstanding leadership this past year, to the FSO Board, for its hard work and guidance, and to you, the members of the FSO, for your commitment to the society. I look forward to working with all of you to further our mission of advocacy, education, and outreach.

Advocacy
Advocating for our patients and our profession has never been as important as it is today. Dangerous legislation that threatened patient safety that would have allowed optometrists to perform eye surgery was proposed and heavily debated in 2017. Fortunately, that bill, HB 1037, was defeated through a joint effort by FSO officers, members, lobbyists, staff, and general counsel, and the state affairs team from the American

continued on page 2.
This year, FSO officers and members across the state have been meeting with state legislators to prepare for the 2019 Legislative Session. Our rigorous education and long years of training is paramount for providing the best eye care possible for patients across Florida, and providers who have not gone to medical school or completed an ophthalmology residency training program should not be performing surgery on patients’ eyes. I encourage each of you to meet with and get to know your state representatives, and to educate them on the importance of assuring patient safety during the delivery of quality eye care. Speak up when dangerous legislation threatens patient safety, and contribute to FOCUS, the Surgical Scope Fund, and OPHTHPAC so that we can speak with a united voice.

Preparations are underway for Masters in Ophthalmology 2019 meeting, June 28-30, at The Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, which has recently completed a $100 million renovation. We have commitments from five exceptional, nationally recognized faculty – George Bartley, MD (Mayo Clinic, CEO of the American Board of Ophthalmology and former Editor-in-Chief of Ophthalmology), Keith Baratz, MD (Mayo Clinic), Amar Agarwal, MS, FRSC, FRC Ophth (Dr. Agarwal’s Group of Eye Hospitals – Chennai, India), Robert Feldman, MD (The Robert Cizik Eye Clinic), and Rishi Singh, MD (Cleveland Clinic). We will continue to have subspecialty breakout sessions that focus on retina, glaucoma, cornea, anterior segment, and more. The Young Ophthalmologist Seminar, which was well attended and enthusiastically received in 2018, will again be offered in 2019. The Masters meeting is one of the country’s best attended state ophthalmology meetings, and we look forward to seeing you at The Diplomat next June.

Outreach
Under the leadership of Dr. David Cano, the For Eye Care Foundation, Inc. (FECF), the FSO’s charitable arm, continues to host vision screening events throughout Florida. I wish to thank members that have previously volunteered at these events, and I would encourage each of you to volunteer at an outreach event near you and contribute to the FECF. These screening events serve the patients of Florida by detecting ophthalmic disease in patients that may have not been identified otherwise.

I look forward to serving as your president over the next year. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to get more involved.

“Advocating for our patients and our profession has never been as important as it is today.”

Education
We had another fantastic Masters in Ophthalmology 2018 at The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grand Lakes in June. The faculty included several nationally recognized speakers – Christopher Rapuano, MD (Wills Eye Hospital); Michael Chiang, MD (Casey Eye Institute); George Papaliodis, MD (Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary); Caroline Baumal, MD (Tufts Medical Center); and Brian Welcome, MD (Jervey Eye Group).
Meeting highlights from the Masters in Ophthalmology 2018 Meeting held June 8-10 in Orlando are now available! Don’t forget another great FSO member benefit is that you have member only access to download slides and recordings from the Masters in Ophthalmology 2018 Meeting. Go to mdeye.org/education/meeting-resources/2018, and login using your username and password. View several of the highly-rated presentations that have been synced with audio from this year’s meeting.

If you need help with your username or password, please contact membership manager, Brandi Rawls at brawls@mdeye.org.
The Masters in Ophthalmology 2018 annual meeting was held at the Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes from June 8-10.

The meeting hosted a variety of tracks to meet the educational needs of the entire ophthalmic practice including scientific sessions, a coding and reimbursement course, an ophthalmic practice administrators program, and a two-day course for certified ophthalmic assistants program sponsored by JCAHPO.

The two-and-a-half-day scientific program provided an extensive review on topics relevant to the general ophthalmologist as well as over three and a half-hours of subspecialty breakout sessions including: cornea/refractive surgery, glaucoma, pediatric ophthalmology and retina-vitreous.

This year’s Melvin L. Rubin Award Lecturer was Christopher J. Rapuano, MD, Chief of Cornea Service and Co-Chief of the Refractive Surgery Department at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. Dr. Rapuano spoke on Min and Office Procedures for Ocular Surface Disease during the Saturday general session and HSV and VSV Anterior Segment Disease on Sunday during the general session.

On Saturday afternoon, the Florida Society of Ophthalmology held its seventh annual Leadership Luncheon. The luncheon has been designed to update FSO members on current events and politics related specifically to the state of Florida. This year’s featured guest speaker was Florida Attorney General candidate Ashley Moody, JD, who spoke about the political climate today.

After all of the great presentations on Saturday by nationally renowned faculty, attendees were able to relax and unwind at the Saturday evening reception.

On Sunday morning the meeting kicked off with the annual OMIC lecture, which is always well attended. FSO members who are insured by OMIC get an additional 10 percent off their premium for attending the risk management lecture. In between the general session lectures, attendees also got to hear four excellent resident research presentations from residents in-training at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Larkin Community Hospital, the University of Florida, and University of South Florida. Two first and one second place cash prizes were given.

All in all, it was another great meeting this year! We hope that you will make plans to join us for the Masters in Ophthalmology 2019 meeting June 28-30 at The Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, Fla.

**Resident Research Awardees**

**First Place (tie)**

*Correlation Between Macular Choriocapillaris Perfusion and Age in Healthy Eyes Using Swept-Source Optical Coherence Tomography*

Jonathan F. Russel, MD, PhD
University of Miami

*The Impact of Human Vitreous on Transduction of an Ocular Cell Line by Adeno-associated Virus (AAV)*

Valentina Lozano, MD
University of Florida
FSO Thanks 2018 Meeting Supporters

The FSO would like to extend a special thank you to all of the Masters in Ophthalmology 2018 exhibitors and supporters that attended this year’s meeting at The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes, June 8-10.

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Mayo Clinic
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Chief Executive Officer
American Board of Ophthalmology
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Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN

GLAUCOMA
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Richard S. Ruiz Distinguished University Chair
The Robert Cizik Eye Clinic
Houston, TX

RETINA-VITREOUS
Rishi P. Singh, MD
Staff Physician
Cole Eye Institute
Medical Director
Clinical Systems Office, Cleveland Clinic
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
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MASTERS IN OPHTHALMOLOGY 2019

THE DIPLOMAT BEACH RESORT
HOLLYWOOD, FL
JUNE 28-30, 2019

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UPCOMING EVENTS

STATE AND NATIONAL MEETINGS

February 6-10, 2019
Cataract Surgery: Telling It Like It Is
Disney’s Yacht & Beach Club Resort
Lake Buena Vista, FL

April 10-13, 2019
American Academy of Ophthalmology
2019 Mid-Year Forum
Washington, DC
aao.org/mid-year-forum/overview

Friday, June 28, 2019
Coding and Reimbursement Course
Masters in Ophthalmology 2019
The Diplomat Beach Resort
Hollywood, FL

Saturday, June 29, 2019
Ophthalmic Office Administrators Course
Masters in Ophthalmology 2019
The Diplomat Beach Resort
Hollywood, FL

August 9-11, 2019
Florida Medical Association 2019 Meeting
Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek
Orlando, FL

REGIONAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

Tampa Bay Ophthalmological Society
mytbos.com/meetings/tbosmeetings.php
Wednesday, November 14, 2018 | 6:00 PM
Eddie V’s
mytbos.com/mobile/meetings.php

Palm Beach County Ophthalmology Society
pbcos.org/Memberz/index.html
None scheduled at this time.

Duval County Ophthalmology Society
None scheduled at this time.
The 2018 Elections are a Game Changer

We had a long, hot summer, but nothing that compared to this heated election. Under the leadership of your Florida Society of Ophthalmology (FSO) President, Dr. Darby Miller, and your Board, we were active in over 52 campaigns this election cycle.

“่มWe anticipate many issues to resurface during the next Legislative Session that may have a tremendous impact on your daily practice.”

These months are crucial to the future success of the FSO, especially during the 2019 Session. We anticipate many issues to resurface during the next legislative session that may have a tremendous impact on your daily practice. This election cycle, the Florida Optometric Association (FOA) contributed millions of dollars to races, and there were many rumors that their accelerated participation in these crucial elections can only mean an enhanced legislative agenda moving forward.

In the meantime, we are eagerly awaiting for these elections to wrap up after the mandatory recounts are complete, so we can move on with our own legislative agenda.

To date, there have been no bills filed for the 2019 Legislative Session. We will be keeping a close eye not only on the FOA, but the efforts on behalf of other medical paraprofessionals, the 1-800-Contacts lobby, as well as the telemedicine issues that will undoubtedly emerge in the next few months.

In the meantime, please refer to the important legislative calendar dates below and please do not hesitate to contact your FSO leadership with any questions or concerns you may have.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **November 20, 2018** – Organizational Session
- **December 2018-February 2019** – Interim Committee Hearings
- **December 11–13, 2018**
- **January 7–11, 2019**
- **January 22–25, 2019**
- **February 4–8, 2019**
- **February 11–15, 2019**
- **February 18–22, 2019**
- **Tuesday, March 5, 2019** – Regular session convenes
- **Friday, May 3, 2019** – 60th day – Last day of regular session
The number one goal of the Florida Society of Ophthalmology (FSO) is to protect our patients and our profession. We have established programs that enable the FSO leadership to educate the Florida Legislature on major issues affecting our profession and to help deter legislative encroachment by unqualified personnel. FOCUS is the FSO political committee (PC). In order to be successful in our legislative efforts, FOCUS needs support by way of financial contributions. If we are not working to elect candidates who are friendly to the profession of ophthalmology, someone else will support candidates who may not be interested in protecting the integrity of our medical license.

Please consider making a one-time donation or sign up for an automatic monthly deduction on your credit card. All contributions to FOCUS are used to further the legislative agenda of the FSO. Please complete the form below to make your contribution today. Without support from the PC, the ophthalmology profession is at risk in Florida.

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6816 Southpoint Parkway, Suite 1000
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Contribute online at: mdeye.org/focus

FOCUS PC is a voluntary, nonprofit, unincorporated political committee of individual ophthalmologists and others, and is not affiliated with any political party. FOCUS is an independent, autonomous organization and is not a branch or subsidiary of any national or other political committee.

Refund Policy: Contributions made to FOCUS are non-refundable. PC contributions are voluntary. Every member of the FSO is encouraged to make a contribution to FOCUS each year to solidify and strengthen our overall political strategy. A contribution at any level is welcome. Contributions to PCs are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.
Third Party Liaison Committee Update

Clinical Documentation Company Records Requests

The Florida Society of Ophthalmology (FSO) has been made aware of record requests by Inovalon, a clinical documentation company and business associate of Florida Blue. These record requests were analyzed by FSO’s General Counsel.

In light of HIPAA’s requirements regarding the “minimum necessary” use and disclosure of protected health information (PHI), and assuming a Florida ophthalmologist has already obtained patient authorization for payment-related disclosures, our legal counsel recommends, in general, that the ophthalmologist ask the business associate (e.g., Inovalon) to provide documentation, on payor letterhead, confirming that the business associate is acting on behalf of the payor and explaining what the minimum necessary amount of PHI is and why access to the entire medical record is justified or required by law. These issues, however, are fact specific and our General Counsel encourages ophthalmologists to seek individual legal counsel before proceeding forward.

Local Coverage Determination Update

The FSO and the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) have been involved in an active, joint effort, to change First Coast Service Options’ Local Coverage Determination for Scanning Computerized Ophthalmic Diagnostic Imaging (SCODI). The recommended changes center upon the frequency with which retinal OCT may be performed. The American Society of Retinal Specialists also had contributed to this effort.

ASC Payment Increases Proposed

The facility payment update from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed tying payment updates for inflation to the “Hospital Market Based” standard. This is a more generous standard than the current standard (the CPI-U) used to adjust ASC payments for inflation.

Prior-authorization for AMD injections

The FSO joined the AAO in fighting the policy by which some Florida Medicare Advantage plans require prior-authorization for each monthly intravitreal injection. This process causes unnecessary delays in treatment. CMS as well as the Medicare Advantage have been active approached about this onerous practice.

2019 Medicare Proposed Fee Schedule Highlights

Changes involving the “Promoting Interoperability” program of the have
been proposed for the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Quality Program. The AAO analyzed these and does not believe they bode well for ophthalmology, calling them a return to the “Meaningful Use Dark Ages.”

Telemedicine services may be headed toward a more generous payment model. This might include remote patient evaluations based upon video or images.

There might be a major overhaul of the decades-old Evaluation and Management system. The current five levels of E and M services might be substantially compressed. There is a proposal to change the level 2 through 5 series into a single E and M code.

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Free amblyopia vision screenings were offered again this summer through the For Eye Care Foundation (FECF), the charitable arm of the the Florida Society of Ophthalmology (FSO). The first screening was held at the Caridad Center Science in Boynton Beach on Saturday, July 28 during the Center’s annual “Back-to-School Bash” event. The vision screening has been a part of this event for the last couple of years and it attracted both preschool and older children to the Caridad Center. The event also offered hearing screenings as well as provided school supplies and back packs. Volunteer participants at this vision screening included ophthalmology residents from the Larkin Community Hospital program in Miami, the Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches, Caridad Center staff and the staff of Cano & Manning Eye Center. Two SPOT vision screening devices made the screenings both fast and fun for the children and the volunteers.

We owe a great deal of gratitude again to Ana Neira of the Caridad Center who had the vision to invite us again to this special event and made wonderful accommodations for the screening.

This successful event helped to raise awareness of preventable vision loss in children due to Amblyopia. We were able to screen 73 children at this event, as well as provide those in need with appropriate resources when they were referred for complete eye exams by the vision screening. Eleven children were identified as having potential eye problems through this vision screening process. Problems detected included high hyperopia, anisometropia, high astigmatism, myopia and strabismus and other vision issues.

“We those children who were identified of having potential visual issues were supplied information and resources for follow up...”

Our other annual summer vision screening event was held at the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium in West Palm Beach on Wednesday, Aug. 22 during the Center’s “Stroller Daze” event. The event was part of a preschool event that attracted preschool children to the Science Center and included science crafts, storytelling, fire truck exploration, planetarium show, Discovery Center exploration, face painting and vision screening. This is our fourth event at the museum and has become an annual event for the FECF. Participants in the vision screening included many Lions Club members who volunteered from several clubs in the Palm Beach County area, ophthalmology residents from the Larkin Community Hospital program in Miami, the Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches, Laura Sims, MD, Vice Chair of the FECF, and the staff of Cano & Manning Eye Center.

At this event, we screened 95 children, with 11 who were identified with the
following vision issues: astigmatism, anisocoria, hyperopia/astigmatism, hyperopia, and other problems. Those children who were identified of having potential visual issues were supplied information and resources for follow up including the vision clinic at the Caridad Center, Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches, and local pediatric ophthalmologists.

We give special thanks to Mary Allen, Director of Vision Services and Jennifer Breitinger, Children’s Services Coordinator at the Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches who gathered and analyzed the data from this vision screening.

Our next vision screening event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as part of the Annual Family Festival and Health Fair help at the Caridad Center.

Unfortunately, only about 20 percent of children in Florida are appropriately screened for Amblyopia, which is a preventable and completely treatable form of vision loss if detected at an early age.

The FECF was very pleased to provide one of the screening devices for the screening along with the Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches. We hope to partner again these organizations to help prevent this type of preventable blindness in these children again in the future.

You too can make a difference by contributing to the For Eye Care Foundation of the FSO. To make a contribution, please go to: mdeye.org/support/contribute.

As another way to try and raise funding for the For Eye Care Foundation, we have registered the FECF with the AmazonSmile Foundation. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price from eligible purchases made back to the FECF. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, they may offer special, limited-time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. If you are interested in helping the FECF when you shop with Amazon, please use this link: smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3051564.

The FECF needs our members to actively become more involved in our foundation through volunteer work in their local communities and/or through contributions. Please visit mdeye.org/foreyecare to learn more.
About For Eye Care Foundation, Inc.:

We are the charitable arm of the Florida Society of Ophthalmology, an organization of ophthalmologists devoted delivering the highest standard of eye care throughout the state of Florida.

The For Eye Care Foundation, Inc., formed in 2010 by the Florida Society of Ophthalmology, assists other eye care organizations with community outreach and delivers important public service messages regarding eye care and disease.

For Eye Care Foundation, Inc. plans to use your generous contributions for:

- Public Education and Media Messaging
- Community Outreach and Screening
- Small Grants for Public Services

The Foundation would like to collaborate with organizations around a common agenda. To find out more about the Foundation, to volunteer or to share your ideas, please contact us at 904-998-0819.

The For Eye Care Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Donation Form

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Robert Wiggins, MD
Chair, Finance Committee and Treasurer
President

Darby Miller, MD is a cornea and cataract specialist and an assistant professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. He completed his cornea fellowship at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and his ophthalmology residency and medical school at George Washington University Medical Center. Miller completed his internship and earned his M.S. degree at Georgetown University. He completed his M.P.H. degree at Harvard University and his undergraduate studies at the University of Kansas. In 2016, Miller received the Michael R. Redmond, M.D. Outstanding Young Ophthalmologist Leadership Award.

President-Elect

Kara Cavuoto, MD is an assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology and clinical pediatrics at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. She evaluates and treats patients with pediatric eye disorders, including amblyopia and strabismus, as well as adults with strabismus. In addition, Cavuoto serves as the director of medical student education in ophthalmology at the University of Miami. In this role, she oversees all ophthalmology clerkships and pre-clinical graduate coursework and advises University of Miami medical students applying for ophthalmology residency. Cavuoto attended both college and medical school at the University of Miami as part of the Honors Program in Medicine combined BS-MD degree program. She completed an internship in internal medicine at Jackson Memorial Hospital followed by ophthalmology residency and a pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus fellowship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

Vice Presidents

VP of Advocacy

Nate Ruttig, MD is a board certified comprehensive ophthalmologist and practice administrator of Eye MD of Niceville in Niceville, Fla. An Ohio native and former flight surgeon in the Navy, he received his bachelor’s degree and medical degree simultaneously as part of the six-year combined BS/MD program at Youngstown State University and Northeastern Ohio University’s College of Medicine in Rootstown, Ohio. Upon graduating in 2000, Ruttig served in the US Navy, where he completed his internship in Internal Medicine at the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Va. Ruttig received his aviation medicine training at NAS Pensacola, Fla., where he first enjoyed living on the Emerald Coast. Ultimately, he concluded his service as a resident of ophthalmology from 2007-10 at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich. He is a diplomate of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Ruttig worked in private practice for five years before starting Eye MD of Niceville.
VP of Education

David Eichenbaum, MD has been employed at Retina Vitreous Associates of Florida – St. Petersburg, Clearwater, and Tampa – since 2007. He is also a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of South Florida College of Medicine. Eichenbaum received his Bachelor of Arts and medical degrees from the University of South Florida. He completed a fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at Tufts/Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston and has co-authored multiple research interests and articles. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. In 2015, Eichenbaum received the Michael R. Redmond, MD Outstanding Young Ophthalmologist Award from the FSO.

VP of Outreach

Sarah Wellik, MD has been an instructor of clinical ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and Miami Veterans Affairs Hospital since 2005 and has been an associate professor since 2012. She practices at UHealth at Plantation in Plantation, Fla. A diplomate of the AAO, she has practiced at the University of Miami Hospital (2011-present), Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital in Miami (2004-present), Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami (2005-present), Miami Veterans Affairs Health System (2005-present) Boston University Medical Center (2001-04) and Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Ct. (2000-01). An author of numerous published research pieces, Wellik received her Bachelor of Science and medical degrees from the University of California, Irvine. She completed an internal medicine internship at Yale University, served her ophthalmology residency at Boston University School of Medicine and completed her clinical fellowship in glaucoma at Bascom Palmer.

Secretary/Treasurer

Arindel Maharaj, MD has been an assistant professor at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine since 2014. An author of several published works, he received his Bachelor of Science from SUNY Stony Brook and medical degree, along with a doctorate in experimental pathology from Harvard Medical School. Maharaj completed his internship and ophthalmology residency at the Baylor College of Medicine before serving his glaucoma fellowship at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

Immediate Past President

Krishna Kishor, MD is an Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at the University of Miami/Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. In 2008, he was appointed to the Ann Bates Leach Eye Hospital in Miami, Fla. Kishor received his Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, and Doctor of Medicine degree from Medical College of Virginia/VCU, where he also completed his residency in Miami, Fla. Kishor has co-authored multiple publications, book chapters, and abstracts. In 2011, he received the Michael R. Redmond, MD Outstanding Young Ophthalmologist Award from the FSO.
The Florida Society of Ophthalmology announced the awardees of the annual awards at the Masters in Ophthalmology 2018 meeting.

Stephen G. Schwartz, MD, MBA (Naples, Fla.) received the John R. Brayton, Jr., MD Leadership Award, which was established in honor of John R. Brayton, MD, and recognizes a Florida-based ophthalmologist who exemplifies leadership and dedication to the profession.

Dr. Schwartz is a past president of the FSO and currently serves as an AAO Councilor through December 2018. He is a Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, as well as Medical Director and Division Chief of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at Naples. Dr. Schwartz received his medical degree from New York University, completed his internship at Lenox Hill Hospital and served his ophthalmology residency at NYU Hospitals Center. He also completed his retina/vitreous fellowship at the Baylor College of Medicine and completed a Masters Program at Northwestern University.

Neal Freeman, MD (Melbourne, Fla.) received the James W. Clower, Jr., MD, Community Service Award, which was established in honor of James W. Clower, Jr., MD, and recognizes a Florida-based ophthalmologist who has made the greatest contribution of time and service to his or her community.

Dr. Freeman is a fellowship-trained ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Florida Eye Associates in Melbourne, Florida. He is the Chair of the Third-Party Liaison Committee for the Florida Society of Ophthalmology and has been a member of FSO’s Board of Directors since 2011. Dr. Freeman also serves as the ophthalmology specialty representative to the Florida Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee. He instructs, consults, and participates at all levels in the medical coding, billing, reimbursement, and auditing processes. Dr. Freeman has completed over 20 volunteer surgical missions around the world with Surgical Eye Expeditions, International.

Arindel Maharaj, MD (Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.) received the Michael R. Redmond, MD, Outstanding Young Ophthalmologist Award, which was established in honor of Michael R. Redmond, MD, and recognizes a Florida-based ophthalmologist younger than 40 years old, who has demonstrated organizational leadership, service, competence and devotion to the high ethical and professional standards of the FSO.

Dr. Maharaj has been an assistant professor at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine since 2014. An author of several published works, he received his Bachelor of Science from SUNY Stony Brook and medical degree, along with a doctorate in experimental pathology from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Maharaj completed his internship and ophthalmology residency at the Baylor College of Medicine before serving his glaucoma fellowship at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.
Craig McKeown, MD (Miami, Fla.) received the Shaler Richardson, MD Service to Medicine Award, which was established in honor of Shaler Richardson, MD and recognizes a Florida ophthalmologist who has made the greatest professional contribution to quality patient care by coordinating, participating, collaborating, and integrating ophthalmology into the great body of the medical profession on a local, state, or national level.

Dr. McKeown currently serves as associate professor of clinical ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer. His interest in ophthalmology first began in the 1970s while serving as a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force. He served on a team that investigated a midair plane collision over Holland. Though investigators determined the crash was unavoidable, they concluded it was vision related. Following his tour in Europe, Dr. McKeown returned to the U.S., where he completed his residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and was influenced by internationally renowned pediatric ophthalmologist Marshall Parks, MD.

A retired U.S. Air Force colonel, Dr. McKeown previously held academic appointments at Harvard University and Tufts University medical schools, where he served as director of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Service at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and the New England Eye Center.
Stay Connected with Your FSO!

The FSO has an interactive website at mdeye.org that incorporates many members-only resources such as latest news and updates, annual meeting highlights, member directory, and much more. You can also view your membership account and keep your contact information up-to-date. Please feel free to email webmaster@mdeye.org for assistance, or membership@mdeye.org for login information.

Be sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date on all of the FSO’s important news and events, along with helpful eye health tips!

facebook.com/FloridaOphthalmology

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Dr. Katz Receives AAOs Secretariat Award

Adam Katz, MD, FSO Past President, was the 2018 recipient of the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Secretariat Award that was presented at the 2018 AAO Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The Secretariat Award recognizes special contributions to the Academy and ophthalmology. Dr. Katz was selected because of his outstanding leadership to the Florida Society of Ophthalmology and collaboration with the Academy’s Secretariat for State Affairs during the 2017 legislative battle here in Florida.

Congratulations to Dr. Katz for receiving this special award.

FSO President and Board Member Complete the AAO 2018 LDP

Darby Miller, MD, FSO President and Ninel Gregori, MD, FSO At-Large Member, were recognized at the 2018 American Academy of Ophthalmology annual meeting for completing the 2018 Leadership Development Program (LDP). The LDP was designed to provide both orientation and skill development to future leaders of state, subspecialty and specialized interest societies. Over the last year, they attended meetings, where they learned about leadership, advocacy and association governance.

Dr. Miller was nominated by the Florida Society of Ophthalmology. Dr. Gregori was nominated by the Retina Society. Congratulations to both!
Recruit a New FSO Member and Save $100 or more on Your FSO Annual Dues!

As a Florida Society of Ophthalmology member, you already know the value that membership brings to you, your career, and your patients. From top-notch educational programs to legislative advocacy in Florida’s capitol, membership in the FSO supports you in providing the best possible patient care.

To encourage recruitment efforts, we are offering members $100 off annual dues for every new member that joins based on YOUR referral!

How to refer a new member:

1. Contact your colleagues and fellow ophthalmologists and share how you have benefited from FSO membership

2. Share with them the benefits of membership and encourage them to complete a membership application

3. When they submit their application, have them fill in your name in the field, “Recommending Member”

4. We will take care of the rest and you will SAVE on your next dues renewal!

Questions regarding the recruit a member program, please contact membership@mdeye.org.

Share the flyer on the next page with potential FSO members!
Why join the Florida Society of Ophthalmology?

When you join the Florida Society of Ophthalmology (FSO), you become a member of a nationally recognized organization that is committed to ensuring high-quality eye health care for all Floridians and protecting the ophthalmology profession. The FSO is the only statewide organization representing Florida ophthalmologists (Eye MDs) and their patients.

The FSO promotes and protects the medical specialty of ophthalmology through actively participating in legislative advocacy, providing continuing medical education, and disseminating responsible information to its members, physicians, and to the citizens of Florida to ensure the delivery of the highest standard of eye care throughout the state of Florida.

Benefits of joining the Florida Society of Ophthalmology?

- Discount to Masters in Ophthalmology Annual Meeting
- Subscription to *The Florida Ophthalmologist* - the FSO's quarterly newsletter
- Access to online Membership Directory
- Legal discounts through Holland & Knight, the FSO General Counsel

Discount Program

**Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Group (OMIC)**

OMIC insured can earn a risk management premium discount by registering for the annual FSO meeting and attending this cosponsored program. Participants must also turn in an attendance form at the OMIC seminar along with their email address. Participants no longer must complete the online part after the meeting as OMIC has concluded that they can contact them to survey and determine the effectiveness of the risk management education. OMIC insured’s who are current FSO members can receive a 10% discount for attending live OMIC course at the Masters in Ophthalmology meeting. Non-FSO members earn a 5% discount. These insurance premium discounts are applied upon renewal with OMIC. For further information call (800) 562-6642.

What membership do I qualify for?

- **Active Membership**: degreed MD or DO from an accredited medical school, certified or eligible for certification by the American Board of Ophthalmology, and whose practices are limited to Ophthalmology
- **Affiliate Membership**: are physicians who are licensed to practice medicine in a state OTHER than Florida. This member must be in good standing with the ophthalmology society of the state in which they practice, if applicable. Affiliate Members must be endorsed by at least one Active or Retired Member of the FSO.
- **New Practitioner Membership**: Available to new ophthalmologists in the first 3 years of practice. You must apply for New Practitioner Membership within one year of completing your residency or fellowship, and a dated copy of your residency or fellowship certificate must accompany your application. You must submit this type of application in print (download here). You may pay $850 with your application to cover the 3-year New Practitioner period or pay $285 with your application and agree to be billed annually for the next two installments. After your New Practitioner period is over, you will be billed for Active Membership.
- **In-Training Membership**: degreed MD or DO who is serving in a recognized AMA/OGA approved ophthalmology residency training program or fellowship program (documentation must accompany this application).

Learn More and Apply at [mdeye.org/membership/join](http://mdeye.org/membership/join)