



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 13, 2022

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FSO Honored Members at 2022 Annual Business Meeting

Awardees were recognized for leadership, community service, and innovation in the field of ophthalmology

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – (June 13, 2022) – On Saturday, June 11, the Florida Society of Ophthalmology (FSO) presented annual society awards to members during its Annual Business Meeting.

Sarah R. Wellik, MD, Receives John R. Brayton, Jr., MD Leadership Award



At the Florida Society of Ophthalmology Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, June 11, Sarah R. Wellik, MD, received the John R. Brayton, Jr., MD Leadership Award, established in honor of John R. Brayton, MD, and recognizes a Florida-based ophthalmologist who exemplifies leadership and dedication to the profession.

Sarah R. Wellik, MD is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine where she obtained a B.S. in biological sciences and graduated Cum Laude. She went on to work in the private sector as a research associate in molecular biology before getting her medical degree from the University of California, Irvine. She completed her medical internship at Yale University and residency in ophthalmology at Boston University. Dr. Wellik subsequently did a Clinical Glaucoma Fellowship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami. Since completing fellowship, she has remained on staff at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and the Miami Veterans Affairs Hospital. She is active in glaucoma clinical research and resident and fellow training.

Dr. Wellik is a leader in state and national ophthalmologic societies and has numerous peer-reviewed literature publications. She served as president of the Florida Society of Ophthalmology from 2020 to 2021. Dr. Wellik is currently a Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and is the Director of Glaucoma Services at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Broward County.



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Daniel J. Briceland, MD, Receives Shaler Richardson, MD, Service to Medicine Award



Daniel J. Briceland, MD, received the Florida Society of Ophthalmology's Shaler Richardson, MD, Service to Medicine Award, established in honor of Shaler Richardson, MD, and recognizes an ophthalmologist who has made the greatest personal 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. Briceland was honored during the FSO Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, June 11.

In 2015, Dr. Briceland became the Senior Secretary for Advocacy for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He previously he served as the Secretary for State Affairs from 2009 through 2014 and Associate Secretary for State Affairs from 2004 through 2008. Dr. Briceland also served for six years as Director of the Academy's Leadership Development Program (LDP), overseeing the development of future leaders of state, subspecialty, and specialized interest societies, and continues to serve as LDP faculty. In addition, he also served on the Academy's Committee on Aging.

Dr. Briceland is in a private group practice with his wife Susan Briceland, MD, a gynecologist in Sun City West, Arizona. He specializes in geriatric ophthalmology and cataract surgery. Dr. Briceland is the medical director of Spectra Eye Institute, past president of the Arizona Ophthalmological Society, and Chair of the Ophthalmic Mutual Insurance Company (OMIC). He also serves on the board of the Arizona Medical Association and the legislative and PAC committees.

Raquel Goldhardt, MD, FACS, Receives James W. Clower, Jr., MD, Community Service Award



Raquel Goldhardt, MD, FACS, received the James W. Clower, Jr., MD, Community Service Award, 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. Goldhardt was honored during the FSO Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, June 11.

As a cataract surgeon, medical retina, and uveitis specialist, Dr. Goldhardt has extensive surgical and clinical experience in the management of complicated cataract surgery, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious and inflammatory diseases, retinal



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pathologies including macular degeneration, vein occlusions, and diabetic retinopathy. Her research focuses on novel imaging techniques for macular degeneration, Stargardt's disease, corneal nerves analysis in patients receiving anti-VEGF injections, the investigation of quality-of-life following cataract extraction in AMD patients, ocular manifestations, and biomarkers of Gulf War illness, and was the first to describe posterior subhyaloid precipitates in patients with cytomegalovirus retinitis.

Dr. Goldhardt is committed to fostering a culture of belonging and opportunity for all. She serves as the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute champion for inclusion and diversity and has played an active role in the admission and executive committees for the University of Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami for many years. Dr. Goldhardt has been invited to lecture all over the world and has been a key figure in national and international physician education. Her commitment and passion for medicine inevitably drove her to get involved in several mission trips and health fairs vision screenings throughout Florida. She has led mission trips to underserved areas in China and South America (eg. Darwin Project in the Galapagos) and surgical mission trips to Mexico and is the co-director of the International Physician Global Outreach at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute since 2019.

In 2017, she served as President of the Miami Ophthalmological Society. In 2020, Dr. Goldhardt joined the Florida Society of Directors. She has served as the Vice President of Outreach, Vice President of Education and was recently elected to serve as the Vice President of Advocacy. Dr. Goldhardt has made significant contributions in her community through her time, talent, and dedication.

Helayna Brown, MD, Receives Michael R. Redmond, MD, Outstanding Young Ophthalmologist Award



Helayna Brown, MD, received the Michael R. Redmond, MD, Outstanding Young Ophthalmologist Award, 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. Brown was honored during the FSO Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, June 11.

Dr. Brown specializes in corneal, anterior segment, cataract and refractive surgery. She attended Drexel University in Philadelphia for undergraduate and medical training as part of a seven-year combined BS/MD program.



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After completing an internship at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, Dr. Brown completed her residency at Temple University in Philadelphia. There she was elected to serve as chief resident. She completed an extra year of fellowship training at Corneal Associates of New Jersey where she gained extra surgical experience in corneal transplants, advanced refractive cataract surgery, keratorefractive surgery and many other corneal procedures.

Dr. Brown is an active member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery and the Florida Society of Ophthalmology. She currently serves as the chair of the membership committee. Dr. Brown is also volunteer faculty member at Larkin community ophthalmology residency where she teaches the residents. While in training, Dr. Brown served on various hospital committees for quality improvement and patient safety. She was previously an active member of the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology and was an advocacy ambassador to promote patient safety issues on a legislative level. Dr. Brown has published her research and presented at both local and national conferences on topics including LASIK, glaucoma and optic neuritis.

ABOUT THE FLORIDA SOCIETY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY (FSO)

The Florida Society of Ophthalmology (FSO) has a rich history of serving patients since its founding in 1939 as the Florida Society of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. Today, the organization represents more than 500 physician members throughout the state and is focused on advancing patient care and protecting the medical specialty of ophthalmology. For more information, please visit the FSO website at www.mdeye.org.

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