‘09 Annual Meeting: Mixing science and fun

Despite extensive media coverage of the H1N1 virus outbreak, more than 10,100 ARVO members and others flocked to the 2009 Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale in May.

Only about 500 eye and vision researchers, mostly from Japan and Singapore, opted not to attend the Meeting due to the uncertainties surrounding the H1N1 virus as well as travel restrictions issued by their governments and institutions.

Also strong was the response to ARVO’s post-Meeting survey, with about 10% of attendees from all Scientific Sections providing feedback about the scientific program, publications and services. Ninety-four percent of respondents indicated that the Annual Meeting met or exceeded their expectations and 92% ranked the scientific program as excellent or good.

ARVO staff carefully reads all comments and we will continue to consider suggestions for improvements in all aspects of the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting attendees undaunted by flu fears

ARVO’s e-learning initiative offers CME

ARVO has launched a portal to our educational resources, the new eLearning Center at www.arvo.org/elearning. Visitors can view lectures, workshops and symposia from past ARVO Annual Meetings.

In addition, the site offers opportunities to earn Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits as well as a system for users to track their own CME.

Robert Nussenblatt, MD, FARVO (National Eye Institute), who serves on the organizing committee of ARVO’s Clinical Trials Education Series, talks about the features of the new system.

Q. Tell us more about ARVO’s new eLearning Center.

Nussenblatt: The ARVO eLearning Center will be the central place for professionals in ophthalmology and vision science to access the latest educational resources the Association has to offer. Some programs will help professionals keep up to date with advances in the field, while others will enhance specific skills and knowledge.

Professionals can view synchronized PowerPoint presentations with audio and video from past meetings, including the

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See who will receive the ARVO 2010 Awards.

IOVS goes online only, starting January 2010. See details.

See e-learning, page 20
ARVO President’s Message

Change that makes sense

ARVO has changed considerably over the years. Obviously, the Association has grown. Membership now exceeds 12,000 and close to half the group resides outside the US. In the early days, abstracts for the presentations at the Annual Meeting could be printed as a small booklet and mailed to attendees. Now, the Annual Meeting includes over 6,200 presentations and the abstract book is simply too big to print and deliver. When the abstract book grew too large, ARVO began mailing members a Program Summary and optional CD. More recently, the program was made available online. At the Annual Meeting this year we heard some of you express concern about the Program Summary being distributed onsite, as opposed to mailed to attendees in advance. We also know some of you were surprised that we didn’t produce a CD containing the Abstract Search and Itinerary Builder. We listened, and the Board of Trustees carefully re-examined the available options. The CD will be brought back for members to pick up at the Annual Meeting. It will contain PDFs of all the sessions and a full table of contents linked to session names. Given the prohibitive costs of shipping and the difficulty of timely delivery, we won’t be mailing the Program Summary book ahead of the 2010 meeting. Instead, the Online Abstract Search and Itinerary Builder will be online at www.arvo.org on February 26. And, the full contents of the Program Summary will be available online at www.arvo.org by March 30, 2010. You will be able to download (and print, if you wish) the entire Program Summary. Or you can make your own customized version with just the sections you want. And you can still pick up the print version of the Program Summary when you arrive at the Convention Center.

Members have told us it’s important to have searchable information available online. The complete 2009 Abstract Search will be archived permanently on the IOVS Web site. In fact, the Abstract Searches from the past four meetings are available online, and you can search every meeting abstract from 2002 through 2009 on the Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science (IOVS) Web site, www.iovs.org.

The move to online information is also very much in evidence at ARVO journals. Like other academic publishers, ARVO has recognized the need for change. The Journal of Vision has been remarkably successful as an online-only journal, rapidly becoming one of the leading publications in the field. IOVS has seen a precipitous decline in demand for the print edition as people grew accustomed to reading the journal online.

ARVO can be a print publisher or an online publisher but not both, and the print side of the business is waning quickly. The high costs of print production could not be recovered from diminished print subscriptions. So, starting in January 2010 the print version of IOVS will be discontinued and the journal will be available online only.

For many of us, this change is difficult. Thumb through the printed journal was enjoyable; it felt good to hold the journal and turn the pages. But the electronic format certainly has its advantages. Online-only production speeds the delivery of published research. It also enables IOVS to give readers access to supplementary materials. Read more about what’s ahead for IOVS and JOV on page 29.

There are a few more technology-inspired initiatives on the horizon. ARVO is launching a collection of Web 2.0 tools to help members network with each other and share information. These include updates from the “ARVO cafe” Twitter feed as well as posts, discussions, news and updates on the ARVO Facebook fan page and LinkedIn page. You can read and comment on the posts on the new ARVO Blog. Also look for videos on the ARVO YouTube channel, as well as photos on Flickr. More details about all of these networking tools are on page 28.

There will be changes as ARVO makes increasing use of today’s technological tools. The hope is that these initiatives will help strengthen the high-quality, cutting-edge scientific discourse that has always characterized ARVO.

Give the new initiatives a chance. Try Twitter or look into Facebook. You might find comments from someone like me pondering the passing of the printed page and visits to the quiet, comforting library to read the latest articles.

Best Nick D.

ARVO International Chapter Affiliates

ARVO-NED
Bijlmer, The Netherlands
www.bijlmerlinden.org

Asociación de Investigación en Visión y Oftalmología (ARVO)
Buenos Aires, Argentina
www.arvo.org

Brazilian Research Association for Vision and Ophthalmology (BRAVO)
São Paulo, Brazil
www.fesbe.org.br/brarvo

Hungarian Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (HARVO)
Budapest, Hungary
www.harvo.org

Israel Society of Vision and Eye Research (ISVER)
Jerusalem, Israel
www.isver.org

Visit www.arvo.org/affiliates to learn more.

Grants for chapter affiliates

The Alcon Foundation has generously awarded the ARVO Foundation for Eye Research (AFFE) a three-year grant to provide matching grants to the International Chapter Affiliates. These will match the funds that ARVO provides to International Chapters each year.

The matching grant funds will support educational programming at chapter affiliate meetings and events. A portion of the funds may also be used to support a travel grant to the ARVO Annual Meeting. The first set of grants will be awarded this year.

ARVO launches affiliate chapter

A group of basic and clinical researchers in Austria recently formed a subgroup under the Austrian Ophthalmological Society Annual Congress. ARVO member Wolfgang Drexler, PhD, gave the keynote lecture. The HARVO travel grant recipients from the 2008 ARVO Annual Meeting gave scientific presentations.

From right ARVO Vice President Elect David Hunter, MD, PhD, meets with HARVO chairman Ulrich Nemecek, MD, PhD, DS and HARVO secretary Miklos Resch, PhD, to recognize the HARVO chapter and discuss ways to further support ARVO International Chapter Affiliates.

Renew online now!

Don’t wait until December! Every year we have members who wait to renew until the abstract deadline and are unable to complete their renewals on time. Don’t miss presenting at the 2010 meeting because you missed the deadline! Renew now at www.arvo.org/renew using Visa, MasterCard or American Express.
ARVO Awards

Congratulations 2010 ARVO Awards Recipients

ARVO is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2010 ARVO Awards. Awards and lectures will be presented at the 2010 ARVO Annual Meeting, May 2–6, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Proctor Medal

Richard H. Masland, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital
Presented for seminal contributions to our understanding of the retina as a system that processes images and transmits them to the brain and for enduring characterizations of the diversity, numerosity, morphology and functional properties of many types of retinal cells in widely used preparations.

Friedenwald Award

Rachel R. Caspi, PhD, FARVO, National Eye Institute, NIH
Presented for fundamental and widely influential contributions to ocular and systemic immunology, including the understanding of uveitis as an autoimmune disease, the development and thorough characterization of animal models of autoimmune uveitis, and the nature of autoimmunity.

Weisenfeld Award

George L. Spaeth, MD, FARVO, Wills Eye Institute
Presented for lasting contributions to the gonioscopic evaluation of glaucoma and the advancement of its treatment, and to the education of two generations of ophthalmic physicians.

Cogan Award

Jayakrishna Ambati, MD, University of Kentucky
Presented for exceptional contributions to the understanding of the role of innate immune mechanisms and macrophages, in particular, in angiogenesis, including establishing that macrophages can be anti-angiogenic, and advancing their potential role in understanding mechanisms and treatment of age-related macular degeneration.

Special Recognition Award

Christina Fassler, Retina International
Presented for major contributions in the light to cure retinal degenerative diseases, acting as spokesperson for the needs of patients and information conduit between patients, investigators and funding agencies.

Distinguished Service Awards

Todd P. Margolis, MD, PhD, FARVO, University of California, San Francisco
Immediate Past President 2009–2010
President 2008–2009
IM Section Trustee 2004–2009

Don C. Hood, PhD, FARVO, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
President 2004–2009
CV Section Trustee 2004–2009

Distinguished Contributions to Retina Research

John P. Fisher, MD, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
Presented in recognition of efforts to discover new treatments for retinal diseases.

ARVO/Alcon Early Career Clinician-Scientist Awards

The ARVO/Alcon Early Career Clinician-Scientist Research Awards are made available through a generous donation from Alcon Laboratories to the ARVO Foundation Eye Research and support researchers who are committed to a career as a clinician-scientist (funds pending). Congratulations to the 2009 award recipients:

- Masayuki Ashikari, PhD
  Nagoya City University
- Michael V. Boland, MD, PhD
  Johns Hopkins University
- Yu-Guang He, MD
  University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
- Alessandro Iannaccone, MD
  University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center
- Nobuyoshi Kitaichi, MD
  Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine

Applications for the 2010 awards must be completed during abstract submission.

ARVO-AFER/Merk Innovative Ophthalmology Research Award

Thanks to a generous grant from Merck & Co., Inc., this series of biennial awards encourages young researchers to undertake investigative work in critical areas of ophthalmology. The 2009 recipients are:

First Place

- Glaucoma: Mike Karl, MD, University of Washington
- Back of the Eye Diseases: Chung-Jung Chau, PhD, Tufts University, JM USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging

Second Place

- Glaucoma: Wolf Laggner, MD, University Eye Hospital, Freiburg, Germany
- Back of the Eye Diseases: Hyun Woong Kim, MD, PhD, Inje University College of Medicine, South Korea

Nomination Deadline: March 1, 2010. Nominations must be completed online at www.arvo.org/awards. Nominations must include one nomination letter, a CV and the names of three colleagues who support the nomination.

Call for Nominations

The ARVO awards honor individuals for their exceptional contributions to ophthalmology and visual science. There are no membership requirements or geographical restrictions for nominees or nominators. Members of the vision community are invited to nominate their colleagues for the prestigious ARVO awards to be presented at the 2011 ARVO Annual Meeting.

Proctor Medal

Outstanding research in the basic or clinical sciences as applied to ophthalmology.

Friedenwald Award

Outstanding research in the basic or clinical sciences as applied to ophthalmology.

Mildred Weisenfeld Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology

Distinguished scholarly contributions to the clinical practice of ophthalmology.

Cogan Award

Contributions to research in ophthalmology or visual science that are directly related to disorders of the human eye or visual system, by a promising individual 40 years of age or younger.

Kupfer Award

Distinguished public service on behalf of eye and vision research.

Special Recognition Award

Outstanding service to ARVO and/or the vision research community.

See www.arvo.org/awards

Contact: awards@arvo.org
+1.240.221.2949

See www.arvo.org/news Summer/Fall 2009
ARVO Commercial Relationships Policy changes

At the recommendation of the ARVO Commercial Relationships Committee, the ARVO Board of Trustees approved the ARVO Commercial Relationships policy to be in compliance with ACCME. “R” indicates if you have received gifts in kind, honoraria or travel reimbursement valued in any amount in the last 12 months from a company or competing company which provides a product, service, process or equipment that is the subject matter of your presentation or publication.

See www.arvo.org/commercial.

A thank you to outgoing committee chairs and volunteers

ARVO extends thanks to all members who served on committees this past year. Special thanks go out to chairs who completed their terms this year: Barry Winkler, PhD, FARVO (Advocacy); Catherine Thut, PhD (Animals in Research); Edward Pugh, PhD, FARVO (Awards); Laura Robles, PhD, (Diversity Issues); Don Hood, PhD, FARVO (Finance); Robert Rutch, MD, FARVO (International Members); Maureen Maguire, PhD, FARVO (Professional Development and Training); and Nicholas Delamer, PhD, FARVO (Publications).

We also want to thank our Retina (RE), Optometry/Visual Sciences, University of Illinois.

CO, EY and LE Sections to choose Trustee candidates in 2011

Are you a leader who wants to help shape ARVO into the future? The voting members of the Cornea (CO), Eye Movements/Strabismus/ Amblyopia/Neuro-Ophthalmology (EY) and Lens (LE) Sections will nominate their candidates to stand for election in 2011. Trustees serve a five-year term and meet face-to-face three times annually. Be sure to attend your Section’s Business Meeting during the 2011 ARVO Annual Meeting to nominate the candidate of your choice.

Watch your e-mail and the ARVO Web site for a call for nominations notice in February 2010.

See www.arvo.org/governance.

ARVO Clinical Trials Registration Policy to include Phase 1 trials

Beginning July 1, 2010, registration will be required for Phase 1 trials. This includes submissions to IOVS and IOV and abstracts submitted for the 2011 ARVO Annual Meeting or any educational meeting sponsored by ARVO. Although this policy change will not affect 2010 ARVO Annual Meeting abstract submissions, investigators are strongly encouraged to register their trials as soon as possible and before the first patient is enrolled.

See www.arvo.org/clinicaltrials.
Join your colleagues to share research in scientific sessions, networking events and more. The theme, “For Sight: The Future of Eye and Vision Research,” will focus on advances in technology, communications, careers and funding. The Annual Meeting — the largest international gathering of eye and vision researchers in the world — will explore advances in these areas and their implications for eye and vision research during the next decade and beyond.

Call for abstracts
ARVO encourages members to submit abstracts to the Meeting that highlight advances and improvements that will impact the future of eye and vision research. Abstract submission begins October 15, 2009, at www.arvo.org. See the Call for Abstracts mailed with this newsletter for more information.

Reserve your hotel today!
The ARVO Housing Bureau has processed all hotel requests made during the 2009 Annual Meeting and has sent reservation confirmations. If you have not received a confirmation, contact the Housing Bureau at gflhousing@broward.org.

If you have not already requested a hotel reservation for the 2010 Annual Meeting, go to www.arvo.org/housing to check rates and availability. Hotel rooms in the official block at ARVO’s discounted rates are limited and sell out quickly — don’t delay. If you have questions about reserving a room through the Housing Bureau, view the Hotel Reservation FAQs at www.arvo.org/housing/faq.

To request a block of 10 or more rooms, contact Lancey Cowan, lcowan@arvo.org.

Important dates
2009
September 1
2010 Membership dues renewed online opens
September 15
2010 Annual Meeting registration opens
October 15
2010 Annual Meeting abstract submission and SIG proposal opens
December 4
2010 Annual Meeting abstract submission deadline, 11:59pm EST
ARVO Travel Grant Awards application deadline
ARVO/McAwards application deadline
Special Interest Group (SIG) proposal deadline
December 6
2010 Annual Meeting abstract revision deadline, 11:59pm EST
2010
February 26
Notification of 2010 Annual Meeting abstract acceptance emailed to First Authors
March 1
ARVO Annual Awards nomination deadline
ARVO Travel Grant Awards announced online
March 15
Program Summary online
March 16
2010 Annual Meeting housing deadline
2010 Annual Meeting early registration deadline
April 23
2010 Annual Meeting registration cancellation deadline
April 30-May 1
ARVO/Phar/Ophthalmics Research Institute
May 1
ARVO/ISEE Meeting
ARVO Education Courses (see page 9)
May 2–6
2010 ARVO Annual Meeting, For Sight: The Future of Eye and Vision Research
www.arvo.org/am

ARVO Education Courses
Saturday, May 1
Separate registration is required. For more information, visit www.arvo.org/courses.

Age-related Macular Degeneration: Fundamental Discovery and Translation in Treatment Paradigms
Organizer: Rajandra S. Apte, MD, PhD
Methods of Modeling Cost-Effectiveness of Eye Care Interventions
Organizer: Kevin D. Tock, PhD; Steven M. Kymes
Probability and Statistics Fundamentals for Analyzing Ophthalmic Clinical Studies
Organizers: Dale Kennedy, PhD; Kathryn S. Kennedy, MSE
Ocular Oncology Course
Organizer: J. William Harbour, MD
Use of Human Embryonic Stem Cells in Treating Eye Disease
Organizer: Lisa A. Naethold, PhD

Symposia
Sunday, May 2, 2010
8:30–10:30am
Gene-environment Interactions and Retinal Disease
Organizing Sections: BI, CL, RC, RE
Organizer: Paul S. Bernstein, MD, PhD
This symposium will bring together leading researchers who are studying the complex interactions of genetic and environmental risk factors and modifiers of retinal disease at the molecular level, in animal models and in the clinic. Each invited speaker will review current progress on a particular retinal disease and will provide insights on future research and therapeutic approaches on a broad range of retinal diseases spanning the range from infancy to old age.

Genetic and Epigenetic Regulation of Eye Development and Disease — The Future of Vision Research
Organizing Sections: RC, BI, PH, RE, VN Organizers: Dong Feng Chen, PhD; Donald A. Fox, PhD
This symposium will focus on a rapidly growing area of biomedical research: how genetic networks and epigenetic modulation shape normal and altered eye development. The speakers will highlight and integrate recent advances in the elucidation of common biochemical, cellular and molecular pathways affected in retinal developmental processes and discuss how alterations of these pathways may lead to retinal dysfunction and disease. The topics of this symposium will provide participants with a platform to share their work and discuss the significant contributions made by others on their respective topics. The overall goal of the symposium is to gain insight into the common cellular and molecular mechanisms affected during retinal development and to discover potential new therapeutic targets for treating eye diseases.

9:00–11:00am
Cell-based Therapies: Origins and Model Systems
Organizing Sections: RE, AP, CO, RC Organizers: Farzana Das, MD; James Funderburg, PhD
There are remarkable advances in cell-based therapy. They are currently used very successfully in corneal surface reconstruction. There is a growing need for use of cell-based therapy in a variety of retinal diseases including retinitis pigmentosa and age-related macular degeneration. This symposium will put together the past efforts, recent developments and future application in one platform. This will give an opportunity to design a strategy and road map for future research and therapy.

Current Strategies in the Molecular Biology, Genetics and Epidemiology of Refractive Error Development
Organizing Sections: CL, AP, BI, RE, VI Organizers: Seang-Mei Saw, MBBS, PhD; Deborah Nickla, PhD; Chris Hammond, PhD
Myopia is a potentially blinding disorder with huge public health importance and a leading cause of visual impairment. The emmetropization process is a delicate balance between the visual experience and mechanism of control of the visual system. The understanding of the developmental pathways for myopia will facilitate the identification of children at risk of developing pathologic myopia. This symposium will highlight the current state of knowledge, including the role of the retina, chorioid and sclera, for refractive error development in humans and animals. Suitable therapeutic interventions such as pharmacologic eye drops or multifocal lenses to halt the progression of myopia in children will be evaluated. Multi-disciplinary topics across several platforms that translate myopia research from the “bench” to the “bedside” by six experts will be included.

Basic/Clinical Lecture
Sunday, May 2, 2010, 2:45–4:45pm
Emerging Stem Cell Therapies for Eye Diseases
Organizing Sections: ET, AP, BI, CO, EY, RC, RE
Organizer: Neenu Gupta, MD, PhD
The Basic/Clinical Lecture, presented from a basic perspective to clinical researchers, will provide the most up-to-date, cutting-edge knowledge available regarding emerging stem cell therapies to treat a wide variety of blinding eye diseases.

Topics will include stem cell therapies for diseases of the ocular surface, cornea, retina, optic nerve and glaucoma, and selective stem cell targeting for eye tumors, including engineering stem cells. The ethics of stem cell use will be discussed. Gaps and opportunities for future research in each or combinations of these areas will be identified through active discussions.

Events
ARVO Workshops

Committee-Sponsored Workshops

Stem Cells in Animal Models of Ocular Disease
Organized by the Animals in Research Committee

Building a Diverse Research Workforce
Organized by the Diversity Committee

Conflict of Interest and Full Disclosure: An Ongoing Issue for Practitioners, Companies and Government
Organized by the Ethics and Regulations in Ongoing Issue for Practitioners, Companies and Government

CO Novel Gene Targeted Mutations
Organizer: Seang-Mei Saw, PhD

CL Genome-wide Association Studies and Gene-environment Interactions for Eye Diseases
Organizer: Seang-Mei Saw, PhD

CO Novel Gene Targeted Mutations
Organizer: Seang-Mei Saw, PhD

GR Current and Emerging Biomarkers of Glaucoma
Organizers: Makato Araie, MD, PhD; Paul S. Hollander, PhD; Paul G. Firey, PhD; Marc Kantorow, PhD

PD Photoreceptor Targeting: Conventional Outflow: Where Is the Resistance?
Organizers: W. Daniel Stover, PhD; David L. Epstein, MD

RC Neuroprotection: Mechanisms and Promise of Future Therapies
Organizer: John D. Ash, PhD

RD Diabetic Macular Edema — Current Management & Future Directions
Organizer: Taraprasad Das, MD

VE Treating Presbyopia: Multifocality, Pseudoaccommodation and Restoring Accommodation
Organizers: Susana Marcos, PhD; Raymond A. Applegate, PhD

Other Workshops

ARVO-AUPO Workshop: Do You Want to be a Chair of Ophthalmology?
Organized and presented by department chairs and co-sponsored by the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology

VSS Symposium

Wednesday, May 5, 12-1:30pm

Understanding the Functional Mechanisms of Visual Performance
Organizers: David R. Williams, PhD, Wilson S. Geisler, PhD

Speakers: David H. Brainard, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Martin S. Banks, PhD, University of California, Berkeley; David Heeger, PhD, New York University

Considerable progress has been made in understanding the functional mechanisms underlying human visual performance. This progress has been achieved by using a variety of rigorous approaches, including careful psychophysics, functional imaging, computational analysis, analysis of natural tasks and natural scene statistics, and the development of theories of optimal Bayesian performance. This symposium highlights some of the exciting progress that has been made by combining two or more of these approaches in addressing fundamental issues in color coding, distance coding and object recognition.

ARVO Cross-Sectional Groups

Genetic Modifiers of Inherited Ocular Disease
Monday, May 3, 12-1:30pm Organized by the Genetics Group

Nanodiagnostics in Ophthalmology: A New Frontier
Tuesday, May 4, 12-1:30pm Organized by the Nanotechnology Group

NEI Grant Writing Workshop
Organizer: Lore Anne McNichol, PhD

US-China Networking Luncheon
Organizer: Shikun He, MD

ARVO 2010 Annual Meeting

Each ARVO Scientific Section has the opportunity to organize at least one Minisymposium during the Annual Meeting.

AP Light Regime and Eye Growth
Organizers: Debora L. Nickels, PhD; Chea-su Kee, PhD

BI Therapy for Sight
Organizers: Anna-Lea den Hollander, PhD; Paul S. Bernstein, MD, PhD

CL Genomic-wide Association Studies and Gene-environment Interactions for Eye Diseases
Organizer: Seang-Mei Saw, PhD

Patients and providers in the United States have not had an opportunity to communicate plans to members. At its October meeting, the ARVO Board of Trustees will determine whether the Meeting will stay in Fort Lauderdale or rotate to other locations. If the Board decides to move the Meeting, ARVO staff will work quickly to finalize arrangements for future Annual Meetings and to communicate plans to members. The Meeting will remain in Fort Lauderdale at least through 2011.

ARVO asked attendees about Meeting location preferences as part of the 2009 post-Meeting survey. If you have not had an opportunity to voice your opinion about the location of future ARVO Annual Meetings, send your comments to annualmeeting@arvo.org.

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Online now: Lectures and workshops
- ARVO/Alcon Keynote Lecture: Hugh Taylor, MD, Washington to Ouagadougou: Who Deserves to See?
- Proctor Medal, Joe G. Hollyfield, PhD, Progress in understanding the initiating events in age-related macular degeneration
- Friedenwald Award: Samuel Miao-Siu Wu, PhD, Synchronic organization of the vertebrate retina: general principles and species-specific variations
- Mildred Weisenfeld Award: Alan Bird, MD, FMedSci, Towards biological treatment of retinal diseases
- Cogan Award: Marie E. Burns, PhD, Desensitization mechanisms of rod phototransduction
- Champalimaud Award: Norrin/Frizzled 4 signaling in retinal vascular development, Jeremy H. Nathans, MD, PhD, Johns Hopkins University (2009), Light detection in the retina, King-Wai Yau, PhD, Johns Hopkins University (2009)
- Do you want to be a chair of ophthalmology? (Workshop)
- Getting Published: Advice and Admonitions (Workshop)

See www.arvo.org/elearning

Ambitious attendees fill department chair workshop
Every seat was booked in advance for a new workshop co-sponsored by ARVO and the Association of University Professors in Ophthalmology called “Do you want to be a chair of ophthalmology?”
The workshop was aimed at early and mid-career ophthalmologists. Current chairmen presented their “top 10 lists” of what they wish they had known before becoming chairmen themselves. Panelists shared their experiences, recommendations for preparation, and critical factors for success.
The workshop is available on the ARVO eLearning Center at www.arvo.org/elearning and will be offered again at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Reflections on the ARVO 2009 experience

The most valuable aspect of the meeting was the constructive feedback I received on my research, which gave me new direction for further consolidating my research. By attending the conference, I was also able to personally meet prominent leaders in my field of research as well as many others.

Also, the restaurants and music around the beach front were fantastic and a must-go for first-time attendees.

Ross receives first Envision-Atwell Award
The first annual Envision-Atwell Award for research in low vision and vision rehabilitation was presented to Nicole Ross, a student at the New England College of Optometry, at the Low Vision Research Group (LVRG) social during the ARVO Annual Meeting in May.
The award was originally named the Atwell Award, in honor of long-time vision research supporter Constance Atwell. Atwell, who was on staff at NEI, played a pivotal role in encouraging and motivating high-quality low vision research. The award has now been renamed the Envision-Atwell award recipient Nicole Ross (Jorden) from right from the New England College of Optometry and Schepens Eye Research Institute.

ARVO 2009 Annual Meeting Highlights

ARVO 2009 experience

George Kong, PhD Candidate, Centre for Eye Research Australia Recipient, ARVO Foundation for Eye Research/ Pauline and Oswald Lapp Travel Grant

From left: Linda Merrill, president and CEO of Envision; Eli Pei, OD, Schepens Eye Research Institute at Harvard University; and, James Nolan, PhD, director of research at Envision, with the first annual Envision-Atwell award recipient Nicole Ross (Jorden) from right from the New England College of Optometry and Schepens Eye Research Institute.

Did you know?

Annual Meeting abstracts from 2002–2009 are available online at www.arvo.org. The 2009 Annual Meeting abstracts are also available on the online Abstract Search at www.arvo.org.

Save the dates
ARVO Annual Meeting May 1–5, 2011 Fort Lauderdale, FL

Check out photos of the Meeting and more on Flickr at www.flickr.com/arvoinfo.
ARVO/Champalimaud Lecture

The joint recipients of the 2008 Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award, worth €1 million (US$1.45 million in 2008) were Jeremy H. Nathans, MD, PhD, and King-Wai Yau, PhD, both from Johns Hopkins University. They presented lectures on “Norrin/Frizzled 4 signaling in retinal vascular development” and “Light detection in the retina” respectively.

See more photos of the Meeting on Flickr at www.flickr.com/arvoinfo.

Reflections on the ARVO 2009 experience

Paul Kaufman, MD, FARVO
Editor-in-chief, Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health

From a 2009 Annual Meeting Blog Post:

A new way is, for me, always the high point of the professional year. Yet every one is different.

This year, much of the week was parsed between many hours in a hotel room (with the ocean as backdrop, so do not feel too sympathetic) writing two difficult but stimulating manuscripts with a very senior colleague from another country and a senior member of my own research group. We slept little but accomplished much, and it is immensely rewarding to see years of coordinated work by our much larger team come to fruition. International collaboration — a major ARVO goal — in action.

When I wasn’t writing and rewriting manuscripts, the other major “asset allocation” (the asset being time, the most valuable one of all!) was meeting with individuals and groups outside of the scientific sessions.

These encounters encompassed other scientific collaborations, IOVS management, personal mentoring, conflict resolution (not the most fun thing!), award adjudication, recruitment, planning, reconnaissance of the research funding landscape and numerous other “infrastructure” activities.

I spent less time in the scientific sessions than usual, and far less than I would have liked. Indeed, most of the “science” time was on the very last day, and it sure felt good!

So for me, ARVO remains the most stimulating week of the year, infinitely kaleidoscopic, and all about networking globally on innumerable issues in every sphere of my professional life. It is like a fine restaurant with a very large menu — what should you choose? You are amazed by your meal, but wistful that you couldn’t have that other dish … Well, there’s always next year.
Reflections on the ARVO 2009 experience

Outi Renko
Oulu University, Oulu, Finland

What comes to my mind at first is that there were no minuses to the meeting at all. We were especially happy about the shuttlebus service, because we had no trouble getting to the convention center on time.

Meeting attendees were nice and gave friendly advice. The internet kiosks were also very nice because our cellphones didn’t work in the US, so it was the only possible way to keep in touch with home.

The ARVO 2009 meeting was valuable professionally. I got a lot from it and it was a good way to meet new people.

CME available

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. ARVO designates this educational activity for a maximum of 35.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The AMA has determined that members-in-training (MITs) may remain as a pre-voting membership. This is a non-voting member category. If you believe that you are in the wrong category, please contact Barbara Hollis at bhollis@arvo.org.

Join a Cross-Sectional Group

Don’t forget to join one or all of the ARVO Cross-Sectional Groups when you renew your membership. Network with your colleagues from different but related areas of study and provide input into future educational programs.

Demographics update:
Who are ARVO members?

ARVO Cross-Sectional Groups

- Imaging 798 668 1466
- Imaging 798 668 1466
- Genetics 718 634 1466
- Genetics 718 634 1466
- Multidisciplinary 798 668 1466
- Multidisciplinary 798 668 1466
- Nanotechnology 694 653 1347
- Nanotechnology 694 653 1347

Each group will present hot topics in interdisciplinary science in a platform session and/or poster sessions at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a member of one or more of these groups, you may update your profile online or send an e-mail to arvo@arvo.org.

In Memoriam

Yasuo Tano (RE)
January 31, 2009

M. Rosario Hernandez (GL)
March 17, 2009

Carl B. Camras (GL)
April 14, 2009

Leo M. Hurvich (VI)
April 25, 2009

Jan P. Koniarek (RE)
April 28, 2009

Thom J. Zimmerman (GL)
August 4, 2009

Jeffrey P. Gilbard, MD (CO)
August 12, 2009

Submit notifications to bhollis@arvo.org.

Members-in-Training status extended

Beginning this fall, current members-in-training (MITs) may remain as a pre-doctoral or postgraduate/resident for a total of seven years combined. Please contact the ARVO office when you complete your training to be changed to regular (voting) membership.
ARVO Education Programs

ARVO/Pfizer Ophthalmics Research Institute
Exploring corneal dystrophies

Invited researchers took a closer look at the current knowledge of corneal dystrophies at this year’s ARVO/Pfizer Ophthalmics Research Institute. The two-day gathering, “Corneal Dystrophies: Molecular Genetics to Therapeutic Intervention,” took place in Fort Lauderdale, Fla, May 1–2, just before the ARVO Annual Meeting.

Topics included current diagnostic techniques, molecular genetic analysis and creation of animal models. The aim was to discuss the development of interventional techniques for prevention and treatment.

The gathering included a diverse group of experts in cornea, molecular genetics and related areas. Their objectives:

- Define the scope of the epidemiologic problem that corneal dystrophies provide globally;
- Review the molecular genetic approaches that have facilitated gene discovery in select corneal dystrophies as well as those that are being used to isolate genes in other dystrophies;
- Discuss use of keratocyte culture and animal models in order to elucidate pathogenesis; and
- Provide insights for designing interventional strategies through pharmacologic modalities and gene therapy.

A report on the presentations, discussion and suggestions for research opportunities will be submitted for publication.

The ARVO/Pfizer Ophthalmics Research Institute is a series of multi-disciplinary research conferences held annually just prior to but separate from the ARVO Annual Meeting. These conferences are funded by the ARVO Foundation for Eye Research (AFER) through a grant from Pfizer Ophthalmics.

Previous Institute topics include:

- 2005: Ocular versus Extracocular Neovascularization: Mirror Images or Vague Ruminations
- 2006: Aquous Humor Outflow: What Do We Know? Where Will It Lead Us?
- 2007: Drug Delivery to Posterior Intraocular Tissues
- 2008: The Role of Glia, Mitochondria, and the Immune System in Glaucoma

Next year’s conference is April 30–May 1, 2010 in Fort Lauderdale on the topic of Optic Nerve Regeneration.

See www.arvofoundation.org or contact Rhonda Williams at rwilliams@arvo.org, +1.240.221.2908.

Upcoming ARVO Meetings

October 13, 2009
NIH, Bethesda, Md.

NEI/FDA Endpoints Symposium
Use of Patient-reported Outcomes in Medical Product Development

This conference will determine how vision-related patient-reported outcomes might be used to improve medical product labeling in ophthalmology.

The meeting is part of the Endpoints series sponsored by the National Eye Institute (NEI) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Participants will explore the issues and challenges related to patient-reported information in ophthalmology. They will also look at FDA guidelines for using patient-reported outcomes and how they are incorporated for medical devices and drugs.

Faculty will include authorities in instrument development, refractive surgery, cataract surgery, glaucoma and retina. FDA representatives will present insights about how the FDA reviews and evaluates patient-reported outcomes in support of product labeling for instruments and ophthalmic drugs and biologics.

See www.arvo.org/endpoints or contact Rhonda Williams, rwilliams@arvo.org, +1.240.221.2908.

May 1, 2010
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

ARVO/ISIE Meeting offers one day of concentrated sessions on current clinical and basic science advances in ophthalmic imaging. It is a forum for the presentation of original research on current advances and state-of-the-art technology in ophthalmic imaging.

This critical and informative research will help you further your practice and better care for your patients. Learn scientific principles behind ophthalmic imaging, discuss and consider clinical applications of imaging technologies, and explore new research and recent advances in imaging.

See www.arvofoundation.org or contact Rhonda Williams, rwilliams@arvo.org, +1.240.221.2908.

Start your funding search with ARVO

Do you know where to go for funding? ARVO can help you get started with our online Funding Guide (www.arvo.org/fundingguide).

This is an alphabetical listing of dozens of organizations that offer grants, fellowships and awards in ophthalmology and vision research as well as related fields. The list links directly to funders’ Web sites, and highlights deadlines to help you prioritize your search.

The Funding Guide is updated regularly, so visit often.

See www.arvo.org/fundingguide.
ARVO Education Programs

ARVO @ other meetings

European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS)
September 12-16
Barcelona, Spain

European Association for Vision and Eye Research (EVER)
September 30–October 3
Portorož, Slovenia

Society for Neuroscence
October 18–21, Chicago, Ill.
Exhibit: Please visit us at Booth No. 2108

American Academy of Ophthalmology
October 24–27
San Francisco, Calif.
Co-sponsored symposium: Translational Research Can Create New Therapies and Modalities for Challenging Ocular Diseases, October 26, 10:45am-12:15pm. For session details, search for SYM13 at www.aao.org/ meetings/annual_meeting/program/.

American Academy of Optometry
November 11–14
Orlando, Fla.
Co-sponsored symposium: Ocular Genetics: Focus on Anterior Segment Disorders, November 12, 1:30–3:30pm. Session details at www.aoopt.org/meetings/meeting/education/Symposia/index.asp
Exhibit: Come see us at Booth No. 5500

ARVO-Japanese Ophthalmological Society Joint Symposium
April 15–18, 2010
Nagoya, Japan
Topic: Retina (details coming soon)

ARVO Clinical Trials Education Series

ARVO has developed the ARVO Foundation for Eye Research Clinical Trials Education Series, through a generous grant from the Allergan Foundation, to present state-of-the-art approaches to the design, construction and execution of clinical trials in ophthalmology.

The Clinical Trials Education Series includes one-day basic courses, advanced three-day courses and online sessions. Upcoming meetings include:

- How to Set Up and Manage a Clinical Trials Site, October 23, 2009, 4–9pm, San Francisco, Calif. (preceding the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting)
- Principles and Concepts in Clinical Trials for Eye Researchers, December 4–9pm, San Francisco, Calif. (preceding the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting)

See www.arvo.org/ctes, or contact Jot Grammer, jgrammar@arvo.org, +1.240.221.2933.

In addition, certificates of attendance for ARVO events, including the 2009 Annual Meeting, are available at the eLearning Center. Both access to certificates and printing them are complimentary.

Q. What does it cost?
Nussenblatt: Users can view most materials at the eLearning Center for free. There are a few exceptions, such as the Clinical Trials Education Series (CTES).

For a modest fee, a user can purchase the entire Clinical Trials Course or a specific session.

The full course covers clinical trial methodology, analysis and management. It’s tailored specifically for eye and vision researchers. See www.arvo.org/ctes for more information.

Q. What’s coming next?
Nussenblatt: The eLearning Center will be constantly updated with new materials. Check the Center often for new educational opportunities.

The eLearning Center is available.

The internet is available.

ARVO has set up a system that will allow them into the system at any time to update/print certificates and to keep track of all their ARVO activities.

Q. How can I earn CME credit using the eLearning Center?
Nussenblatt: ARVO has set up a system that will help professionals keep track of the CME credits they have earned through ARVO. Certificates are available at their disposal and can be printed and updated anywhere the internet is available.

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- How to Set Up and Manage a Clinical Trials Site, October 23, 2009, 4–9pm, San Francisco, Calif. (preceding the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting)
- Principles and Concepts in Clinical Trials for Eye Researchers, December 17–19, 2009, Baltimore, Md (co-sponsored by the Society for Clinical Trials)

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Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have approved their respective FY2010 appropriations bills for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (HHHS), which include funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Eye Institute (NEI).

The House bill, H.R. 3293, was passed on July 24 and would fund the NIH at $30.97 billion, an increase of $670 million (1.1%) over the FY2009 level, and the NEI at $731.1 million, an increase of $34.6 million (3.5%) over 2009. The Senate is expected to take up its bill after the August recess. The Senate bill funds the NIH at $30.8 billion, an increase of $500 million (1.6%) over 2009, and the NEI at $702.2 million, an increase of $11.7 million (1.7%) over FY2009.

On May 7, President Obama had released his FY2010 budget, which proposed to increase NIH funding by $443 million (1.4%) over the FY2009 level of $30.3 billion, and NEI funding by $7.3 million (1%) over the FY2009 level of $688.5 million. The NEI was among a number of Institutes and Centers (ICs) with a minimal 1% increase, due to the President’s targeted funding for cancer and autism research.

NAEVR issued a statement noting that a minimal increase for the NEI was unacceptable, given the increasing burden of eye disease. Congressional leaders went even further in expressing their concerns.

In a May 21 Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee hearing with Acting NIH Director Raynard Kington, MD, PhD, Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) questioned both the adequacy of the NIH increase as well as the majority of that increase being directed to cancer and autism research.

House Appropriations Chair (and LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chair) David Obey (D-WI) was even more vocal in a June 2 hearing with Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, where he criticized the Administration’s proposed targeted funding to specific types of research, rather than deferring to the NIH-priority setting process.

He followed that up with a July 10 statement accompanying the LHHS Subcommittee markup of its bill in which he stated that it “rejected the Administration’s targeted funding approach and ensured that all ICs receive funding to offer biomedical research infusion.” In the end, both the House and Senate bills rejected the President’s targeted funding proposal, which resulted in proposed increased funding across the ICs.

Despite the two-year American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for the NIH of $10.4 billion ($174 million for the NEI), ARVO joined the medical research community in urging Congress to increase NIH funding by at least 7% in FY2010 to restore purchasing power lost due to flat funding and biomedical inflation over the past six funding cycles.

ARVO submitted comments to the respective House and Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittees and ARVO members contacted Congress from NAEVR’s booth at the ARVO Annual Meeting. Plans are already underway for an October 30 NAEVR-hosted ARVO Advocacy Day of the ARVO Board of Trustees and local Washington, D.C. members.

House and Senate resolutions acknowledge NEI 40th anniversary, Decade of Vision

Serving as the “Friends of the NEI” NAEVR worked with its bipartisan House and Senate champions to secure resolutions that acknowledge NEI’s 40th anniversary and support the designation of 2010-2020 as the Decade of Vision.

On June 16, the US House of Representatives unanimously passed H. Res. 366. During House floor debate, lead Democratic sponsor Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and original Republican co-sponsor Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX) praised NEI for its work in saving and restoring vision.

Rep. Gene Green (D-TX), resolution co-sponsor and co-chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus, echoed that support, noting that the country’s vision health challenges will increase significantly in the next decade due to the aging of the population and the disproportionate increase of eye disease in fast-growing minority populations.

In total, there were 114 co-sponsors for the bill. Rep. Baldwin and Rep. Sessions each issued press releases, acknowledging the successful passage.

On July 7, the Senate passed S. Res. 209. The lead Republican sponsor was Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and the original Democratic co-sponsor was Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD). ARVO assisted in securing the Senate sponsor.

NAEVR thanks the member networks that responded to the advocacy alert to contact House offices and request that members serve as co-sponsors. In addition, the American Academy of Ophthalmology used its April 23 Mid-Year Forum Advocacy Day to request House co-sponsors, while Prevent Blindness America worked with the Congressional Vision Caucus to request co-sponsors.
Vision community celebrates NEI 40th anniversary on Capitol Hill

On August 7, the Senate confirmed Francis Collins, MD, Ph.D., as the 16th director of NIH. NAEVR applauded this move, noting Collins’ impressive record as a scientist and leader, having served as director of the Human Genome Project and National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). NAEVR also cited Collins’ past collaborative efforts with NEI on ocular genetics, resulting in one-quarter of all genes discovered to date being associated with vision impairment and eye disease.

Collins confirmed as NIH director

A EVR hosted a Capitol Hill reception in June that brought together more than 200 attendees to recognize NEI’s 40th anniversary. Guests represented members of Congress and their staffs, the vision community and coalition partners.

The event came one day after passage of H. Res. 366 (see page 23). Future AEVR educational events will be held under the Decade of Vision banner as part of a sustained program to educate about the value of federally funded vision research.

While speakers acknowledged the rich history associated with the founding of the NEI, they also focused on current research to save and restore vision and its global impact. AEVR board president Stephen Ryan, MD, recognized the important role Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) and the Lions Clubs played in advocating for the creation of a free-standing eye institute separate from the then-National Institute for Neurological Diseases and Blindness.

RPB and Lions Clubs were just two of the 18 vision community organizations that submitted congratulatory letters to the NEI, which were displayed at the event.

Ryan acknowledged the leadership of NEI’s first director, Carl Kupfer, MD, who served for more than 30 years, and Edward McManus, who served for more than 25 years as NEI deputy director and subsequently as AEVR executive director.

Lions Clubs International President Al Brandel, a retired police detective from Long Island who has served as a Lion for 35 years, concluded the program by talking about the future to save and restore vision worldwide, "We were there for the creation of the NEI, and we will continue our partnership with the NEI in the future to save and restore vision worldwide," he said.

Data supports $10 million for vision in FY2010 defense appropriations

On July 10, NAEVR made a last round of visits to members of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, prior to markup of its FY2010 Defense appropriations bill, requesting support to maintain the dedicated Peer Reviewed Medical Research-Vision line item and increase its funding to $10 million.

NAEVR was joined by Specialist Travis Fugate, USA (retired), who was blinded in Iraq and testified in a March 2009 House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing about the aftermath of his injuries. NAEVR justified the line item increase with the following new data:

- Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center’s (TATRC) addition of $1.2 million of its own funding to the $5 million FY2009 Congressional appropriation reflects the importance of defense-related vision research to TATRC’s mission, as well as battlefield needs.
- DOD’s Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) has posted the last negotiated amounts/abstracts for the six vision awards announced earlier this year. Total funding for vision is $6 million, or about 12% of the $50 million CDMRP pool of funds. (FY2009 reflected the last year that vision competed against 21 other areas of research for funding since, in FY2009, it was given its own funding line item).

Full details appear in the NAEVR Web site Advocacy Center’s section on defense-related vision research.

How to Set Up and Manage a Clinical Trials Site

October 23, 2009, 4–9pm
San Francisco, CA (the day before the AAO Meeting)

This course is FREE, but space is very limited. Register online now.
ARRA funding to continue in 2010

Opportunities for vision research projects were greatly expanded when President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) on February 17. The Recovery Act awarded $10.4 billion to the NIH, of which $174 million was specifically allocated to the NEI.

The ARRA is designed to preserve and create jobs, promote economic recovery and increase economic efficiency by stimulating technological advances in science and health. To achieve these goals, the NEI is distributing these funds to extramural researchers through Research Project Grants, NIH Challenge Grants and Small Business Catalyst Awards, among others. Some awards have been distributed during fiscal year 2009, and funding will continue through fiscal year 2010.

Key NEI initiatives through ARRA include the support of summer research experiences for students and science educators. These are intended to encourage students to seriously pursue careers in science and to provide science educators with short-term research experiences in NEI-supported laboratories. This summer, the NEI has sponsored 136 research positions for high school students, undergraduate students and science educators in 21 states and the District of Columbia.

Through all of the ARRA funding programs, the NEI continues to have a greater ability to support research that could uncover new scientific and medical knowledge related to vision health. We are pleased that we have the opportunity to extend additional support to the vision research community through these mechanisms.

Three ARVO members join National Advisory Eye Council

The National Advisory Eye Council for the National Eye Institute (NEI) has appointed four new members: Joseph A. Bonanno, OD, PhD; James Chodosh, MD, MPH; Col. Donald A. Gagliano, MD, and Alberta L. Orr, MSW. Bonanno, Chodosh and Gagliano are ARVO members. The council advises the NEI about conducting and supporting research, training, health information dissemination and other programs that address blinding eye diseases and disorders, visual function mechanisms, sight preservation, and health needs of visually impaired individuals.

Joseph A. Bonanno, OD, PhD, is an associate dean and professor of optometry and vision science at Indiana University School of Optometry, where he teaches biochemistry and physiology. During the past 18 years, Bonanno’s research has primarily involved the ion and fluid transport properties of the corneal endothelium. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and has previously served as member and chair of the ARVO Annual Meeting Program Committee, ad hoc reviewer for several NEI grant panels, and member of the NIH Center for Scientific Review. Dr. Bonanno has been the lead investigator on $22 million of extramural funding for his research involving anterior eye disease.

James Chodosh, MD, MPH, is an ophthalmologist at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and a lecturer in ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. Previously, he held the M.G. McCook Chair in Ophthalmology at the Dean A. McGee Eye Institute at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, and served as the residency program director, fellowship director, and chief of Cornea and External Diseases. He is past chair of the Anterior Eye Disease Study Section for the NIH Center for Scientific Review. Dr. Chodosh has received funding from the NEI for his research involving ocular adenovirus infection for more than 14 consecutive years. His primary clinical and research interests include medical and surgical treatment of infectious and neoplastic disorders of the ocular surface, and visual restoration of complicated cases.

Col. Donald A. Gagliano, MD, MHA, is executive director of the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Vision Center of Excellence. In 1995, he was awarded the Army Surgeon General’s “A” Designator in recognition of his leadership and extensive international contributions as an ophthalmologist and retinal surgeon. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American College of Healthcare Executives. Col. Gagliano also has had a wide range of military education, received numerous military awards and decorations, and led soldiers at every level of command, including the 30th Medical Brigade in Iraq, where he served as the surgeon who planned, integrated, and executed coalition combat health support during the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Alberta L. Orr, MSW, earned her medical degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, and completed a fellowship in medical retina at the National Eye Institute. Col. Orr has devoted her career to serving visually impaired military personnel and has received numerous military awards and decorations. Col. Orr has been principal investigator on several studies involving visual respite for patients with severe visual disabilities.

NEI/FDA Endpoints Symposium

Use of Patient-Reported Outcomes in Medical Product Development

October 13, 2009
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Includes specialists in refractive surgery, cataract surgery, glaucoma and retina. FDA representatives will discuss the review and evaluation of patient-reported outcomes. Industry reps will expand on developing instruments, ophthalmic drugs and biologics.

Registration is now open. www.arvo.org/endpoints

This meeting is being managed by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.
The ARVO Board of Trustees has completed its evaluation of author charges in terms of the pace of transition to online only as well as long-term plans. The Board has approved the following changes, effective with the January 2010 issue of IOVS:

- Page charges will be $70 per page for the first 8 pages.
- Excess page fees will not change ($150 per page for each page over 8);
- Color charges will be reduced to $100 per page of color;
- At no charge, all articles whose authors indicate funding support from NIH, HHMI and Wellcome Trust will be deposited automatically in PubMed Central to assist investigators in complying with grant requirements.

The board, editors-in-chief and staff continuously monitor costs and explore ways to reduce them wherever possible.

New IOVS features

IOVS will be getting a face lift in January when it goes online only, so look for the new home page then. While traditional reprints will still be available, starting with the January issue, you’ll have the option to buy electronic or e-prints — watch the ARVO Web site for more detailed information.

This fall, ARVO will begin pushing the electronic tables of contents (eTOCs) to all members as issues are published. Subscribers can link directly from the eTOC to the online article. You also have the option to sign up now for weekly alerts for publish-ahead-of-print articles.

Keep in mind: All members have access to IOVS now, but you need to activate your online-only. Issues will no longer be printed.

Did you know?

- Submissions to IOVS continue to increase every year. Submissions have increased over 46% since 2000, averaging between 5% and 9% per year!
- Editorial pages published in IOVS have increased 31% since 2004 (from 4,595 to 6,020 projected for 2009).
- All articles ever published in IOVS back to Volume 1, Issue 1 have been online for the past four years.
- All Annual Meeting abstracts since 2002 are electronically available and fully searchable in IOVS.
- New features have been added to the electronic version of IOVS every year, including publish-ahead-of-print for all accepted articles — a feature added in 2008.
- Submissions to JOV have increased more than 10% a year since its launch.
- JOV publishes the Vision Science Society’s Annual Meeting abstracts every year and is considered the official archive.

From left to right: Assistant Director, Journals Alice O’Donnell, IOVS Editor-in-Chief Paul Kaufman, MD, PARVO; and Director, Publishing & Communications Karen Schools Colson during a meeting at the ARVO office.

Connecting members

Join our conversation. Click the Web 2.0 button on the ARVO home page.

The ARVO Annual Meeting — as well as our other events — has always offered an ideal atmosphere for investigators to share eye and vision research. Now the Association is using new tools to further our members’ conversations and re-create the collaborative spirit of the Annual Meeting all year long. We hope our e-communities provide members with a platform for a healthy virtual dialogue that leads to real-world progress and collaboration in eye and vision research.

Facebook: Millions of people use Facebook every day to keep up with friends, colleagues, share links and videos, and stay involved with organizations and interests. Keep up with ARVO colleagues and keep the discussion going by commenting on and sharing posts.

YouTube: Allows people to watch and share original videos worldwide through the Web. ARVO posts video messages from staff and board members, including topic updates and how-to’s.

Twitter: People follow friends, industry colleagues and organizations via Twitter and get information as it happens. ARVO’s Twitter updates include links to the latest eye and vision research as well as news about events and funding deadlines.

Flickr: An online album for photos and videos. Review and download photos from the 2009 Annual Meeting and other events; we add them all the time.

LinkedIn: A network where you can find, meet and collaborate with colleagues or organizations and make new connections. Join the ARVO LinkedIn group and see who else is there.

Blog: ARVO’s Blog is a forum where members can exchange views on eye and vision topics. Apply to be a blogger by contacting Jessie Williams (jwilliams@arvo.org) or just read and comment on the posts.

Social Media
account. You only have to activate your account once, because the electronic account will be updated automatically when you renew your ARVO membership. You'll never miss an issue if you renew now!

What's next for IOVS?

IOVS is moving to HighWire in January to join IOVS and over 1,200 other journals. IOVS's URL will still be www.journalofvision.org. All current and back issues, including previously published abstracts for the VSS Meetings and the Fall Vision Science meetings, will be available and fully searchable. References will be linked to any articles in any journal published at HighWire, Pub Med/Medline, Web Science and CrossRef in addition to all internal links.

IOVS will also get a new home page and a new look, with lots of features, such as "other articles in Pub Med by this author" links, "e-mail this article", "search Google Scholar", and "download this citation" in a variety of formats — all from every page of every article. Do you want to know more about an article when you scan the table of contents? Roll over the title and the complete abstract will pop up.

What about the future?
The long-term plan for IOVS includes moving as soon as possible from publishing once a month to publishing articles as they are ready. Look for an editorial by IOVS Editor-in-Chief Paul Kaufman introducing new sections in January.

Another feature will be a link on the new home page to announcements about special meetings and awards, as well as classified and product ads with links to additional information where available, and full content delivery to your PDA. Right now, staff is exploring sending IOVS and JOV articles to your iPhone!

If you have any questions, or need assistance activating your account, please contact arvo@arvo.org.

Karen Schols Colson
Director, Publishing & Communications

Contact arvo@arvo.org

Activate your IOVS online subscription — it's as easy as 1-2-3 (4 and 5)

All ARVO members have a subscription to IOVSOnline. To activate your subscription and gain full access to the site:

1. Go to: http://www.iovs.org/subscriptions/
2. Click on Activate your Individual Online Subscription
3. Type in your 5- or 6-digit member number and click SUBMIT.
4. Complete the contact information, then select a username and password of your choice.
5. Hit SEND FORM.

You’ll have access to full text articles in HTML and PDF, 2002–2009 Annual Meeting abstracts, and all supplements — movies, data sets, tables, figures and more.

Please note that logging on to the ARVO Web site does not also log you on to IOVSOnline. You will need to log on separately, using your IOVSOnline user name and password.

www.iovs.org

Downloads and citations: How do they relate at Journal of Vision?

Scientific articles are generally judged by their impact: the degree to which they alter the course of a given field of inquiry. But because that alteration may be difficult to quantify or long in coming, we look for simple metrics that can serve as proxies.
The prime example is the number of times that an article is cited by other papers. This metric has become so ubiquitous and ingrained that we often forget it is only a surrogate. Indirect though it may be, it is often used in decisions on hiring, tenure and promotion, and forms the basis for the well known bragging device known as the H-Index (for a given scientist, the number N of his or her papers that have N or more citations). At the Journal of Vision, because we are an online journal, we have been very interested in a different sort of metric: the number of times an article has been downloaded. Since October 2003 we have collected complete records (Web logs) of internet access of the journal, and this allows us to count downloads for individual articles (to prevent cheating, we count only the first download of a given article by a given user).

Since May 2007, we have published periodic reports of the download counts for each published article. These reports were described in an editorial (Watson, A. B. (2007). Measuring the impact of the download of an article: A new indicator of the popularity of scientific articles. Journal of Vision, 7(4):1, 1-4, http://journalofvision.org/7/4/1/, doi:10.1167/7.4.1). There we argued that download counts were a valuable metric of the usage of scientific articles.


The overall correlation between downloads and citations for Journal of Vision articles is highly significant, about 0.74.

Citations and downloads increase with article age in remarkably similar ways, but downloads precede citations by about two years, and are about 45 times more numerous.

For papers published in a single year, the correlation is as high as 0.8, and usually above 0.6.

The overall correlation between downloads/year and citations/year is about 0.62.

To summarize, download counts provide a useful indicator, two years in advance, of eventual citations — and presumably of the ultimate impact of the article. We would not be surprised if such counts make an appearance in decisions on hiring, tenure and promotion. They may be especially valuable for young scientists, who often face judgment before their citations counts have had a chance to mature.

PS: At the Journal of Vision, we have added a new button to each article. The “Search Google Scholar” button takes you to a page that shows the number of times the article has been cited, according to the free Google Scholar database.

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