

# COTP FALL NEWSLETTER

November 2017



## COTP NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- A NEW LAYOUT
- UPDATED LOGO AND WEBSITE
- MEMBERSHIP FEATURE
- UPDATED ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Continue to watch this section for highlights of new updates.



*Faith Race, COTP President*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow COTP Members,

It has been a while since the last newsletter and I am excited that there is much to report! In this newsletter there is an update from Craig Simms regarding accreditation changes. Also, COTP has an updated website and logo. The website has links from various areas of the IJCAHPO home page, making COTP a bit easier to find. Be sure to check the end of this newsletter for details regarding the website updates.

The thought of being easy to find brings me to the message I would like to share: RECRUITMENT! We know how excellent this field is, and we need to share it with others. Awareness of COTP at regional and national meetings grows new programs, and sharing the field with potential students in the public grows existing programs. We must ask ourselves: Where are the best places to spread the word about Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) careers?

To answer this question on a more grassroots level, we should try to meet students where they are. For my school, we look to the local high schools. Each semester, local high schools tour the various program labs offered at Caldwell Community College in Hudson, North Carolina, and transition advisors at each high school have our contact information. Additionally, our student services area does an excellent job funneling students to our program who otherwise may not be aware we exist. Building relationships with key people, such as advisors and other members of support services, plays a large role in the success of our program.

There is a need for greater public awareness regarding AOP. This next year, I would encourage COTP members to think of other ways we can be more accessible and bring AOP to the forefront on a national level. This will be a topic of discussion during the Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans, as well as in our continued communications throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing each of you this November in New Orleans!

Faith Race, BS, COT, OSC  
COTP President  
[frace@cccti.edu](mailto:frace@cccti.edu)

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## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION AND NEWS

**New Contact.** Please welcome Caitlin Taylor-Sharp to the COTP team. Caitlin graduated from the University of Minnesota, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Economics and a Minor in Communications. She has joined the JCAHPO staff in October as the Accreditation and Development Coordinator. She will be working with COTP and ICA. Contact Caitlin with any questions or updates.

**COTP Members Only Page.** This is intended ONLY for COTP members. Here you can find the COTP Forum as well as a list of current Board Members. If you or your instructors are not currently registered, please contact Caitlin Taylor-Sharp at [cotp@jcahpo.org](mailto:cotp@jcahpo.org).

**Site Visitors.** CoA-OMP is always in need of more physician site visitors. This is an excellent opportunity for your medical director to visit other programs and bring back pearls and ideas for your program. Ask your medical director to volunteer for a CoA-OMP site visit today! Click link for more details: [http://www.coa-omp.org/site\\_visitors/application.html](http://www.coa-omp.org/site_visitors/application.html)

**ATPO and CSOMP Membership.** The Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology (ATPO) and the Canadian Society of Ophthalmic Medical Personnel (CSOMP) offer discounted membership to programs' students as well as a joint membership agreement. Introduce your students to ATPO and CSOMP and get them involved with their professional membership organization. Visit their websites to learn more. <http://www.atpo.org> and <http://www.cso-sco.ca>

**Logo.** COTP Board Members voted on and approved a new logo for COTP. It is on all letter head and throughout the website and newsletter.

**High School Recruitment.** There is a new high school recruitment postcard that will be used for job fairs and to give to guidance counselors to promote careers in ophthalmology. A proof of this postcard will be distributed at the Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans.



**Membership Feature.** COTP would like to recognize your program! We will be promoting one to two training programs per month on the website. Send in one to two paragraphs telling us about your program – how many students you have, what is your demographic, program successes, etc. Please include a group photo of your program, as well as a [photo release](#) for each person pictured in your photos, so we can use your images for COTP publications.

**Website Changes.** The COTP website was redesigned and has a new sleek look! Current member information has also been updated – if you have a change of personnel, please submit documentation to Caitlin Taylor-Sharp at [cotp@jcahpo.org](mailto:cotp@jcahpo.org) to be updated appropriately. With the website change, COTP lost forum content information. We would like to encourage members to start using the forum as a way to share course materials, recommended textbooks, downloads, links, and other useful information.

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## Accreditation Update

*Craig Simms, BSC COMT, ROUB, CDOS, Education Director*

In January of 2016, the Canadian Medical Association's Conjoint Accreditation Services announced that they would be divesting themselves of responsibilities for assessing and accrediting Canadian health education programs in designated health sciences professions. This decision to divest would mean the accreditation status of all 198 training programs from 16 different allied health professions would expire February 1, 2018.

This left four OMT programs, one OT program, and one OMT/orthoptist program without a home...or at least without an accrediting body.

This also happened to be right around the time that CoA-OMP was looking for some much-needed changes in their standards. The CoA-OMP board met with representatives from the Canadian programs and ultimately the Canadian contingency decided it was in their best interest to join CoA-OMP.



The CoA-OMP Board decided to restructure itself into the International Council on Accreditation (ICA) of ophthalmic training programs.

This newly transformed ICA Board includes representatives from the Canadian Society of Ophthalmic Medical Personnel (CSOMP) who will be a sponsor alongside COTP, ATPO, and IJCAHPO. The first order of business is to complete a major overhaul on the accreditation standards. The initial writing was completed in time for the CoA-OMP/ICA board meeting in Cleveland, OH, this past September. The board meticulously

worked through each standard tweaking some and rewriting others. A point-by-point comparison of the new standards to the current CoA-OMP and CMA standards showed two areas that were not completely covered. New standards were written on the spot.

The ICA standards are being edited with updates from Cleveland and for grouping and flow.

ICA expectations are to complete the standards in time for a public hearing in January/February of 2018.

All of these changes can sound daunting and worrisome. But the

ICA board, every step of the way, has the programs' best interest in mind. The goals are to update the standards, to make the standards more clear, and to make every standard have meaning. I believe this has been accomplished. The new standards are clean, concise, and truly represent items that will help programs improve. This is an exciting time to be an accredited training program.

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### Highlights from the ICA Standards:

\*Drafted using CoA-OMP, IJCAHPO international and CMA Standards as reference

\*Includes 7 Standards

\*Each Standard has multiple criteria to met-total of 39

\*Identified "critical criteria" that carries a heavier weight

\*Adopted the CMA numbering system (eg 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 replaces IV.A.3, IV.A.4, IV.A.5)

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