

# COTP WINTER NEWSLETTER

December 2018



## COTP NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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*Deborah Smith, BS, COMT  
COTP President*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Fellow Program Directors,

As Faith Race passes the torch, I want to thank her for the wonderful work she has completed during her three-year term. Her contribution to updating the COTP website, initiating periodic teleconferences, representing us at the national HOSA meeting, and gathering, organizing and submitting our input on the new accreditation standards, are just some of the projects she spearheaded on our behalf. I want to thank her personally for her leadership, insights, encouragement, and friendship. I know I am stepping into some big shoes.

Having been a program director for less than seven years, I am both honored and humbled to have an opportunity to serve the members of COTP. I am honored to work with so many people who have worked hard and have done so much to advance public awareness of this career and further the cause of formal training programs for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP). I am humbled to serve those of you who, through the years, have inspired me, taught me, and more recently, given me so many helpful ideas for my program.

What impresses me most about our COTP community is the talent, wisdom, and passion of its membership. As program directors, we all face many of the same challenges and issues. Often, solutions to our challenges and issues may be found simply by tapping the collective resources of our group. We've made progress, and if we continue the momentum of developing our network of communication, supporting each other, sharing ideas and innovations, and promoting formal training programs...well, there's just no telling what this small, but impressive, group will do.

I am pleased and eager to serve you, so in the words of Jerry Maguire, "Help me, help you!"

All my best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deborah K. Smith'.

Deborah K. Smith, BS, COMT  
COTP President

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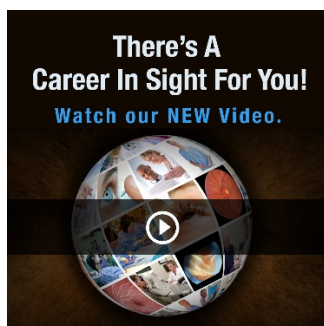
## INFORMATION AND NEWS

**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.cos-sco.ca/csomp/>.

**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. We would like encourage members to start using the forum as a way to share course materials, recommended textbooks, links, and other useful information. If you are not currently registered, please contact Caitlin Taylor-Sharp at [cotp@jcahpo.org](mailto:cotp@jcahpo.org).

**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 photo, so we can use your image for COTP publications.

**Recruitment Brochures.** A brochure has been created to promote our profession at job fairs and other similar events, with guidance counselors, and unemployment offices. A brochure targeted to military personnel as they begin their job search after service has also been created. Contact Caitlin Taylor-Sharp at [cotp@jcahpo.org](mailto:cotp@jcahpo.org) for more information.



**Recruitment Video.** A video has been developed that discusses what an Ophthalmic Medical Technician does and the pathway to becoming one. This video is now available on YouTube and has been promoted online through Facebook and COTP, ICA, IJCAHPO, and ATPO websites. Be sure to link the video to your program's website!

**Salary Survey.** The 2018 COTP Member Salary Survey was completed on May 7, 2018, by 25 program directors. The survey report was released in June to COTP Members. Please contact Caitlin Taylor-Sharp at [cotp@jcahpo.org](mailto:cotp@jcahpo.org) if you have questions on the survey.

**Site Visitors.** The International Council of Accreditation (ICA) is always in need of more physician and non-physician Site Visitors. This is an excellent opportunity for you or your medical director to visit other programs and bring back pearls and ideas for your program. Ask your medical director to volunteer for an ICA Site Visit today! Click the link for more details: [http://icaccreditation.org/site\\_visitors/application.html](http://icaccreditation.org/site_visitors/application.html).

**Website Changes.** If you have a change of personnel, please submit documentation to Caitlin Taylor-Sharp at [cotp@jcahpo.org](mailto:cotp@jcahpo.org) so that your information can be updated appropriately.

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## LETTER FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

It is an honor to have served as COTP's president the past few years. I am very proud of what we have accomplished together, and look forward to continued growth as more formal training programs join COTP.

Thank you to each member for your support and participation. COTP's success would not be possible without you! I would like to welcome Deborah Smith, BS, COMT, as the next president of COTP, and wish her a successful term.

I wish each of you a safe and happy Holiday Season!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Faith M. Race'.

Faith Race, BS, COT  
Immediate Past President

## ACCREDITATION UPDATE

*Craig Simms, BSc, COMT, ROUB, CDOS, IJCAHPO Education Director*



The International Council of Accreditation (ICA) released the new *Standards and Criteria for Accreditation* on November 21, 2018, to all Program and Medical Directors, and posted on ICA's website for public view. To download and review the new *Standards and Criteria*, please visit ICA's website at [www.icaccreditation.org](http://www.icaccreditation.org).

All comment or concerns regarding the new Standards and Criteria must be submitted to ICA in formal letter format stating which Standard you are questioning, reason, and recommendations. All letters must be submitted to ICA **before December 31, 2018**. Any letters received after this date will not be reviewed. The Public Hearing will be scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. The ICA Board will review all feedback before starting the Public Hearing process.

Please mail to: Caitlin Taylor-Sharp  
ICA  
2025 Woodlane Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55125

If you have questions during your review of the new *Standards and Criteria*, please contact the ICA Coordinator, Caitlin Taylor-Sharp, at (651) 731-7243 or via email [ica@icaccreditation.org](mailto:ica@icaccreditation.org).