ARBO’s 2022 Annual Meeting In Person Again!

The ARBO Annual Meeting took place at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, on June 12-14, 2022. A virtual option was also available for delegates that were unable to attend the meeting in person. The Annual Meeting was attended by 84 individuals, which included 53 delegates from 36 member boards.

Dr. Coby Ramsey, President, called the meeting to order on Sunday, June 12, 2022. He then introduced Dr. Charlotte Nielsen of the Illinois Board of Optometry who welcomed the delegates to Chicago. Dr. Coby Ramsey thanked the delegates for attending the meeting. He then recognized the ARBO Board of Directors and thanked them for their work over the past year. Dr. Ramsey also noted some of the accomplishments of the Board of Directors over the past year. Next, he introduced ARBO’s Executive Director, Ms. Lisa Fennell. Ms. Fennell thanked the delegates for attending, introduced the staff and reported some of the staff accomplishments over the past year.

Dr. Patrick O’Neill, Acting Secretary-Treasurer, then presented the 2021 Independent Auditor’s Report and Financial Statements. Following this, the Delegates approved the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Next, Dr. Bill Rafferty, Chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced the committee members and announced the positions that were open on the Board of Directors: one 4-year term for the position of Dr. Rick Orgain, who is not eligible for re-election; one 4-year term for the position of Dr. Rebecca Sparks Dougherty, who is not running for re-election; and a one-year partial term for a Member Board Executive to complete the term of Ms. Patricia Bennett who has retired from the Maryland Board of Optometry and is not eligible for re-election.

Dr. Rafferty then announced the committee’s slate of nominees for each position:

- Board of Director Position 1: Dr. Terri Haley
- Board of Director Position 2: Dr. Fred Goldberg and Dr. Glenn Kawaguchi
- Board of Director Position 3: Ms. Margaret Whelan

After a short break, Dr. Coby Ramsey asked each member board in attendance to report on the activities in their jurisdiction, challenges they encountered over the past year, solutions that were implemented, and possible ways that ARBO can assist in the future.

After a break for lunch Dale Atkinson, Esq., conducted regulator training with the attendees where he presented some real cases and asked the attendees how they would handle the situation in their jurisdictions. This was followed by members of the COPE Governing Committee presenting posters that summarized their research on the relationship between CE format and educational outcomes.

Also in this Issue:
- Letter from the President
- New Board Members Elected
- Note from the Executive Director
- 2022 Approved Resolutions
- 2023 Annual Meeting Promo
- COPE Research Posters
- OE TRACKER Member Dashboard
- New COPE Standards (SII)
- NBEO Laser Surgical Exam/New PEPS Exam
A Letter from the President

Hello ARBO. I would like to thank all those that attended, participated, and helped set up and run our national meeting. We had some great interactions, suggestions and comments. We will continue to make the national meeting more engaging and interactive. We will focus on items and concerns facing all of our jurisdictions.

As you settle back in at home I hope you have found ways to more fully engage with the programs available to all members of ARBO. Back in Wyoming we are going to transition to having ARBO audit all of our licensees. We find that by having all CE COPE accredited it makes it simple to audit. In Wyoming we pay for all our licensees to have a current OE TRACKER subscription. This makes it very easy for all to track CE hours and know if they have enough hours in the right categories. I would recommend doing the same in your jurisdiction. If you are unsure how to start call us and we can get you started.

I would like to share a funny story. We have our state meeting in Cody, Wyoming every July. Every year we point out that we only use the QR codes for tracking CE. We help OD’s download the OE TRACKER mobile app and get them signed into the app. After the first class we show them how to scan (from about 10 feet away at times). They always ask, “are you sure it went through?” We tell them to just wait a few minutes and they will get an email telling them that the class has been added to their account. When the email comes in they say “Wow, that was easy!” We just smile and say, “yes, it is.” Using ARBO programs is easy and fast.

So, what’s next for ARBO? We are going to continue to improve OE TRACKER. The OE TRACKER committee has some great ideas to make it easier to track, submit, audit and share CE courses. Our COPE Committee, with members from AAO and ASCO, continue to refine the COPE program to keep it the gold standard in healthcare CE accreditation. COPE presented two papers in the spring at the ACCME meeting on their research into whether CE format impacts the quality of learning. You can find the posters in this issue on p.11-12. COPE has also had a poster accepted for the upcoming Academy meeting and another one for the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Professions meeting early next year.

I’m also establishing a new work group to put together a model practice act. It will include language to help with practice act changes and how to implement those scope modifications. It will cover education for new and current licensees, certification, using the National Board modules and tracking outcomes.

Our CELMO committee is working on making CELMO a repository of all the documentation a licensee will need to show any jurisdiction where they want to obtain a license. License mobility is such a big issue now with telemedicine ramping up and ARBO wants to assist you with this effort.

If you would like to be on any of these committees let us know and you can help us make all of your wonderful programs even better. Enjoy your end of summer and fall and thanks for all you do to help make ARBO better.

Coby Ramsey, OD
ARBO President
New ARBO Board Members and Officers Elected

ARBO is pleased to welcome Dr. Terri Haley, Dr. Glenn Kawaguchi, and Ms. Margaret Whelan to the Board of Directors. They were elected to the Board during the annual meeting in Chicago in June.

Dr. Haley is a graduate of the University of Houston College of Optometry. She practices in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. She has served on the Idaho Board of Optometry since 2016 and is currently the President of the Board. Dr. Haley is a member of Idaho Optometric Physicians and serves as Chair of their Insurance Advisory Committee. She also serves in the Idaho Medical Reserve Corps. She has been involved with ARBO for several years and has served on the OE TRACKER Committee, Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee, National Board Exam Review Committee, and CELMO Committee.

Dr. Kawaguchi graduated from the Southern California College of Optometry. He practices in Ventura and Santa Barbara, California. He has served on the California State Board of Optometry since 2012 where he participated on the Legislative/Regulatory Committee, Dispensing Optician Committee, and Children’s Vision Workgroup. Dr. Kawaguchi is very active in his local community and he previously served on ARBO’s CELMO Committee.

Ms. Whelan is currently the Executive Director of the Arizona State Board of Optometry and has been with the Board since 2002. She received her BA degree from Creighton University and her MPA from Arizona State University. Ms. Whelan brings her unique perspective as a Member Board Executive to the ARBO Board and one of her goals as a Board member is to seek more effective ways to engage the membership. She has been involved with ARBO for many years and has served on the Member Board Executive Committee and Nominating Committee.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Haley, Dr. Kawaguchi and Ms. Whelan! We are very excited to have them join the ARBO Board of Directors.

At the meeting, the Board also elected new officers for the 2022-2023 term. The officers are: President—Coby Ramsey, OD; Vice President—Jeffery Yunker, OD; Secretary-Treasurer—Kenneth Lawenda, OD; and Immediate Past President—Patrick O’Neill, OD.

A Note from the Executive Director

It was wonderful to see everyone in Chicago in June! It’s hard to believe that it was three years since we were last together in person. We had a great meeting, and we were happy that we were able to offer a virtual option this year for those members that weren’t able to travel. The planning committee made a few changes with the meeting this year. We hope you liked the new format. You can look for even more changes next year when we meet in the DC area.

We had 36 of our member boards attend the annual meeting this year. We were very happy to see all of you there, but there is still a number of you that didn’t attend. I’d love to hear the reasons why you didn’t come. Is there something ARBO can do that would enable you to be able to come next year? We’ve increased our travel stipends and scholarships to help you overcome budgetary issues. More information on those will be released early next year. ARBO’s annual meeting also provides a venue to get together with your regulatory colleagues to discuss your unique challenges and learn about solutions to address them.

ARBO is your association, and our purpose is to provide tools to help you increase efficiency and do more with less. We added a new tool this year, the OE TRACKER Member Dashboard. If you haven’t had a chance to try it yet, please do so and let me know what you think. We’re planning to introduce some more new tools later this year that we think you’re really going to like! Stay tuned for more information.

2022 is flying by, and the summer is rapidly coming to an end. That means the kids are going back to school, the leaves will soon be changing color, and the weather is going to be cooler. It also means that the fall CE season will be starting and our staff is going to get very busy, very fast! We have a great group of very hard-working people at ARBO, and I can’t thank them enough for all that they do.

The Board is finalizing the new committees and the staff is looking forward to working with them. We are also going to be increasing our communication efforts to make sure you are well informed about important regulatory issues and all of ARBO’s programs. I’d encourage you to visit our blog frequently for more regulatory information. You can find it at: blog.arbo.org. I think you will find it a valuable resource. Please let me know if you have any topics you’d like us to write about, or if you want to volunteer as a guest blogger.

As always, feel free to contact me at LFennell@arbo.org with your suggestions or questions.
ARBO Annual Meeting Recap (continued)

Next, Dr. Eric Bailey, Chair of the OE TRACKER Committee, gave the delegates a report on the new features of OE TRACKER and the benefits of using the OE TRACKER mobile app for CE attendance tracking. After that, Ms. Emily Cronbaugh, Executive Director of the Wyoming Board of Optometry and Dr. Joan Atkinson, Deputy Registrar of the British Columbia College of Optometrists, discussed their usage of OE TRACKER for auditing with the meeting attendees.

A presentation by Dr. Dorothy Hitchmoth, NECO Trustee, and Dr. Howard Purcell, NECO President, followed where they discussed the new hybrid OD program at New England College of Optometry and asked for feedback from the regulatory boards on the program.

Next, Dr. Ramsey called for nominations from the floor for each open position on the Board of Directors. There were no nominations made. Dr. Ramsey then allowed each nominee to address the delegates for a few minutes. The afternoon concluded with Dr. Ramsey inviting all the delegates to join him for the President’s Reception.

On Monday, June 13th, Dr. Ramsey called the meeting to order again. He introduced Dr. Terri Haley, Chair of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee. Dr. Haley introduced the committee members and reported that the Judicial Council had reviewed the approved resolutions from the 2021 ARBO Annual Meeting and found them to be appropriate and consistent with the mission of the organization. She then introduced the two resolutions that had been approved by the committee this year for the delegates’ consideration.

Next, Dr. Jeffery Yunker, ARBO Vice-President presented the proposed ARBO 2023 Budget that the delegates would be asked to approve the next day. Then, Dale Atkinson, Esq., gave the attendees a legal update on the current regulatory legal landscape and some cases having regulatory implications.

This was followed by Dr. Jill Bryant, NBEO Executive Director; Dr. Brett Foley, Senior Psychometrician, Alpine Testing Solutions; Dr. Mandy Sallach, NBEO Director of Clinical Testing who gave a report to the delegates about NBEO’s new Part III Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS) Examination.

Later in the morning, Dr. Leo Semes gave the delegates a presentation on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare. This was followed by a report from Dr. Kenneth Lawenda and Dr. Richard Orgain, Co-Chairs of the CELMO Committee on different methods used for license mobility and an update on ARBO’s CELMO program. Ms. Margaret Whelan, Executive Director of the Arizona Board of Optometry, joined them to discuss how her Board uses CELMO to assist with determining the eligibility of optometrists with a license in another state who apply for a license in Arizona.

After lunch, four CE providers joined the meeting to discuss their experiences with synchronous and asynchronous CE. The panelists included Gary Chu, OD, MPH, FFAO, Vice President of Professional Affairs, New England College of Optometry; Adam Farkas, MD, MBA, Chief Technologist, ODwire.org; Elizabeth Grantner, Senior Director of Continuing Education, events and Alumni Engagement, Illinois College of Optometry; and Leo Semes, OD, Professor Emeritus, University of Alabama School of Optometry.

Next, Dr. Jeffery Yunker, COPE Committee Chair, gave a report on the activities of the committee. Following the COPE report, the delegates were able to choose between two afternoon workshops by either NBEO or Dale Atkinson.

On Tuesday, June 14th, Dr. Ramsey reconvened the meeting. Dr. Jeffery Yunker, ARBO Vice President, reviewed the proposed ARBO 2023 Budget and after discussion the budget was approved by the delegates.

Next, Dr. Ramsey presided over the election for the Board of Directors.

Position 1: Placed onto the slate by the Nominating Committee: Dr. Terri Haley. Dr. Haley was elected by acclamation by the delegates.

Position 2: Placed onto the slate by the Nominating Committee: Dr. Fred Goldberg, and Dr. Glenn Kawaguchi. An anonymous written vote was taken after which Dr. Ramsey reported that Dr. Glenn Kawaguchi had received a majority of the votes cast.

Position 3: Placed onto the slate by the Nominating Committee: Ms. Margaret Whelan. Ms. Whelan was elected by acclamation by the delegates.

After the election Dr. Terri Haley, Chair of the Judicial Council/Resolutions Committee, reviewed the two resolutions that had been presented. Resolution Number 1 which recognized the service of Ms. Patricia Bennett to ARBO and granted her Honorary Life Membership in the Association was also adopted by the delegates.

Resolution Number 2 which recognized the service of Dr. Coby Ramsey to ARBO and granted him Life Membership in the Association was also adopted by the delegates. The full text of the resolutions can be found on pages 7-8.
Next, Dale Atkinson, Esq. gave the delegates a presentation on recent regulatory activities found in the news.

After a short break, Dr. Coby Ramsey reported that the Board of Directors had elected the following officers for 2022-2023: Dr. Coby Ramsey will serve as President again, Dr. Jeffery Yunker was elected Vice President, and Dr. Kenneth Lawenda was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Patrick O’Neill will serve as Immediate Past President again.

The morning ended with a report from Dr. Stephanie Messner, ACOE Chair. The meeting concluded with all ARBO Past Presidents in attendance passing the gavel ending with Dr. Patrick O’Neill (2020-2021) passing the gavel to Dr. Coby Ramsey (2021-2023). Dr. Ramsey then adjourned the meeting.
Annual Meeting Approved Resolutions

2022 Resolution #1
Honoring Patricia Bennett

WHEREAS, Ms. Patricia Bennett has performed an outstanding service for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry during her service on the Board of Directors of ARBO since being elected in 2019. Ms. Bennett served as a consultant to the Board of Directors for two years and served one term as Secretary-Treasurer in 2021-2022.

WHEREAS, her service has been exemplified by sterling qualities of leadership which underlie her personal successes and those of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Patricia Bennett has given outstanding service through her role as Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry, and in various other capacities; and

WHEREAS, the member boards of this Association wish formally to acknowledge Ms. Patricia Bennett’s distinguished contributions to the Association; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 103rd Annual Meeting, express its sincere appreciation to Ms. Patricia Bennett for her many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions and bestow upon her the status of Honorary Life Member in this Association.

Approved by the ARBO House of Delegates, June 14, 2022
2022 Resolution #2

Honoring Dr. Coby Ramsey

WHEREAS, Dr. Coby Ramsey has performed an outstanding service for the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry during his service on the Board of Directors of ARBO since being elected in 2017. Dr. Ramsey has served one term as President 2021-2022, one as Vice President 2020-2021, and one as Secretary-Treasurer 2019-2020; and

WHEREAS, his service has been exemplified by sterling qualities of leadership which underlie his personal successes and those of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Coby Ramsey has given outstanding service through his volunteer leadership roles on the Wyoming Board of Examiners in Optometry, and in various other capacities; and

WHEREAS, the member boards of this Association wish formally to acknowledge Dr. Coby Ramsey’s distinguished contributions to the Association; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, at this 103rd Annual Meeting, express its sincere appreciation to Dr. Coby Ramsey for his many years of distinguished service and outstanding contributions and bestow upon him the status of Life Member in this Association.

Approved by the ARBO House of Delegates, June 14, 2022
You Are ARBO!

By Dale Atkinson, Esq.

Established in 1919 as the International Board of Boards (IBB), your entity, now known as the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO), is a not-for-profit association recognized as exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. There is much to unpack from that opening sentence. You are a 103-year-old organization whose membership is comprised of regulatory boards of optometry and whose current mission is “to represent and assist member licensing agencies in regulating the practice of optometry for the public welfare.” The purpose of this article is to re-introduce the readers to your own organization. You are ARBO!

As emphasized during the 2022 Annual Meeting, ARBO is your organization. The “you” means regulatory boards from the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. ARBO member boards are created and delegated with the authority to carry out the intent of the legislature by regulating the practice of optometry in the interest of public protection. Based upon its mission statement and tax status, ARBO provides programs and services to its membership intended to lessen burdens on government optometry boards. These programs and services do not modify the authority of the member boards to enforce the practice act, but rather assist them in fulfilling these essential responsibilities. Perhaps most importantly, ARBO provides opportunities for the membership to gather and share collective wisdom related to regulatory perspectives and enhance effectiveness and efficiencies in the regulatory processes.

The “you” of ARBO provides opportunities to elect your Board of Directors that is “responsible for the management of the business and affairs of the Association in accordance with approved policy and within the budget established by the House of Delegates at its Annual Meeting.” Through their delegate representation, ARBO member boards introduce resolutions intended to provide big picture policy direction to the Board of Directors. Delegates engage in discussions, debate and voting on duly introduced motions at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting also provides educational content to attendees for the benefit of regulation of the profession. As a reminder, ARBO is not a trade association and must be differentiated from the American Optometry Association and other trade groups that promote the profession and engage in activities that influence government. The notion of trade being involved with and determining regulatory issues implicates many legal and practical issues. ARBO membership and persons populating the member boards are regulators in those roles, not optometrists.

ARBO relies heavily upon volunteers in populating its Board of Directors, committees, and task forces in fulfilling its mission with an emphasis on government regulation of optometry. A hearty and sincere thanks is in order for these dedicated volunteers. Readers are encouraged to explore opportunities to volunteer and engage with ARBO and the member boards. Such engagement is a rewarding and enlightening experience.

ARBO has a rich history spanning over a century including creating and funding the National Board of Optometry (NBEO) in 1951. ARBO and the NBEO have a close relationship and work on overlapping and parallel tracks to ensure that the member boards have access to relevant programs. ARBO’s longevity is a testament to the optometry regulatory community and the important role of regulation.

ARBO member boards not only need to know about ARBO, but also its programs and services. The acronyms of ARBO including COPE, CELMO, OE Tracker, the Greensheet, IBB, IAB and others make up the current and historical programs and services. These programs have been developed and implemented to lessen burdens on member boards related to the licensure, renewal and enforcement of the practice acts. All such programs respect the rights of government to ultimately determine licensure eligibility and other aspects related to practice. But these programs provide efficiencies and enhance effectiveness while promoting uniformity where possible. Keep an eye on CELMO related to important mobility and portability issues. The purpose of this article is not to describe in detail all the ARBO programs and services, but merely to re-introduce you to your organization. Readers can visit the website (www.arbo.org) to enhance your knowledge of the programs. There may be a test!

Continued and ongoing communication between ARBO and its 66 member boards is critical to ensuring knowledge and active participation in these opportunities to use current programs, assist in implementing new programs/services, and engage in content delivery. However, it is difficult to communicate with each individual member of the ARBO member boards and relevant staff.
You are ARBO! (continued)

Your organization encourages all member boards to include ARBO on every board meeting agenda to continuously introduce and re-introduce ARBO to members of member boards (who are subject to change) and staff and develop opportunities for ongoing training, regulatory content, and information exchange. You can make it happen!

Numerous other ARBO-like associations/federations exist and operate in a similar manner by providing programmatic opportunities and capitalizing on the collective wisdom of the regulatory membership. Like you as regulators that benefit from the collective opportunities provided by your organization, ARBO is not alone and takes full advantage of having access to these other like-minded entities. Similarly, you are not alone as a member board or individual member of a member board. The opportunities are vast and may assist in addressing the perceived inefficiencies of government licensure and ultimately ensure that optometry continues to be treated as a regulated profession. As needed, invite ARBO representatives to your board meetings to provide updates on your organization. Let the collective voice be heard. See you around the regulatory quad.

Dale Atkinson is ARBO’s Legal Counsel and a popular speaker at ARBO’s annual meetings. Dale represents many other regulatory organizations in his legal practice The Atkinson Firm.

ARBO and NBEO Boards Meet

The ARBO and NBEO Boards of Directors met on August 14th in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Topics discussed included: the new Part III Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS) Exam; diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives; opportunities for the organizations with continued advancement of scope of practice; and license mobility.

ARBO attendees at the meeting included President, Dr. Coby Ramsey; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Ken Lawenda; ARBO Immediate Past President and NBEO Director, Dr. Patrick O’Neill; ARBO and NBEO Director, Dr. Jim Campbell; Directors Dr. Terri Haley, and Ms. Margaret Whelan; Consultant Dr. Donovan Crouch; and Executive Director, Ms. Lisa Fennell. NBEO attendees at the meeting included President, Dr. Susy Yu; Vice President, Dr. Karla Zadnik; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Michael Ohlson; Directors Dr. Joshua Baker and Dr. Lewis Reich; and Executive Director, Dr. Jill Bryant.

Members of the ARBO and NBEO Boards of Directors met in Minneapolis.
Start Making Plans for ARBO’s 2023 Annual Meeting!

Mark Your Calendars for June 18-20 to attend the 2023 ARBO Annual Meeting!

The 104th ARBO Annual Meeting will take place in Alexandria, Virginia at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town. The Hilton is located in the historic Old Town Alexandria neighborhood. It is one of the most convenient hotels in Alexandria, Virginia, for business and leisure travelers visiting Washington, DC.

Explore two cities in one trip – Alexandria & Washington D.C. Located on vibrant King Street; it’s just a quick stroll to enjoy the boutique shops, waterfront restaurants and unique architecture of Old Town Alexandria. The Hilton Alexandria Old Town also offers easy access to National Harbor and MGM Casino.

The Hilton Alexandria Old Town

Old Town Alexandria is full of restaurants, shops, and entertainment.

The DC metro, located across the street from the hotel, is an easy way to go sightseeing.

The Alexandria waterfront is full of activities and has water taxis to Georgetown and National Harbor.

More information and online registration will be available in early 2023.

We look forward to seeing you there!
Members of the COPE Governing Committee have spent a great deal of time this year doing research into whether CE format impacts learning outcomes. The committee worked with the American Academy of Optometry to compare the outcomes from the same CE course that was presented live, in-person, and again at a later date in a live webinar. The committee members have also done extensive literature searches to find published data on this topic, and they have consulted with the CE/CME accreditors in other healthcare professions to determine best practices in continuing education.

The research posters were presented at the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education meeting in April 2022. Other posters on similar topics have been accepted for presentation at the American Academy of Optometry meeting in October 2022 and at the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Professions meeting in February 2023. The posters that were presented at the ACCME meeting are below. If you’re planning to attend either of the upcoming meetings, please come and check out our posters!

Dr. Michael Ohlson, Dr. Gary Chu, Helen Viksnins, and Dr. Susy Yu presenting their research poster at the ACCME meeting in April.
COPE Research Posters Presented

Accredited Online Education is of High Quality

- Improved Accessibility
- Comparable Results
- Active Learning to Improve Competence, Performance, and Patient Outcomes

Summary Abstract

The pandemic has forced organizations to recreate their in-person continuing education (CE) program for online delivery. This literature search is to review outcomes assessments from accredited CME across healthcare professions.

1. Systematic review of online CE programs.
2. Effectiveness of online CE programs.
3. Comparison of online and in-person CE programs.

Future Research

2. Use of learning theory: learning principles utilized in CE programs.
3. Impact of online CE programs on healthcare professionals.

Active Learning

1. There are numerous ‘active learning’ (AL) strategies including peer-led discussions, audience-response polling, ‘flipped’ classrooms, self-reflection exercises, and many others that increase learner engagement in the educational process.
2. Research has shown that:
   - Learner engagement is correlated with teaching effectiveness.
   - Participants prefer AL to traditional lecture format.
   - AL strategies have been shown to increase content knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, and foster positive attitudes toward learning.

Improved Accessibility

1. Convenience (case study, 2020)
2. Flexibility (case study, 2020)
3. Access to content (case study, 2020)
4. Accessibility (case study, 2020)

How does Assessment Inform Quality?

The pandemic has forced organizations to recreate their in-person continuing education (CE) program for online delivery. This literature search is to review outcomes assessments from accredited CME across healthcare professions.

1. Systematic review of online CE programs.
2. Effectiveness of online CE programs.
3. Comparison of online and in-person CE programs.

Comparable Results

Interactive distance learning - the in-person education

Randomized controlled trial: objectively measured changes in behavior and sustained knowledge gain are comparable or better for online CME than live activities (in vivo). Interaction with multimedia and expert feedback through virtual meetings enhances learning outcomes.

Dr. Gary Chu; Helen Viksins; Dr. Steve Singer, ACCME Vice President for Education and Outreach; Dr. Michael Ohlson; Sierra Powell; and Dr. Susy Yu at the ACCME meeting.

Dr. Susy Yu; Kate Regnier, ACCME Vice President; Dr. Graham McMahon, ACCME President and CEO; and Dr. Michael Ohlson at the ACCME meeting.
New OE TRACKER Member Dashboard

As a member of ARBO, if you have logged into your member board account on our website recently, you may have noticed some major changes. We have added some great new features, including a dashboard that conveniently breaks down key information about the licenses in your jurisdiction who are registered in OE TRACKER.

At a glance, you will find information such as the number of licensee records on file, licensees with activated accounts, those with paid subscriptions, and the percentage of your licensees that have completed the hourly CE requirements for the current licensing period. You can also view graphs illustrating the number and percentage of CE hours your licensees have completed in the current renewal cycle.

In addition to the new features, you will still have the ability to validate certificates, look up OE TRACKER numbers, and run reports on your licensees. This includes custom and detailed reports that aid in the auditing process. Utilizing OE TRACKER for auditing purposes can significantly cut down on paperwork for your staff, as our collection of CE attendance data is stored electronically.

ARBO also proudly offers full-service auditing to our members. If you don’t know the username and password for your member board account or if you’d like more information about ARBO’s auditing service please contact our office.

The new OE TRACKER member dashboard is dynamic and the data will change daily as your licensees add CE credits to their OE TRACKER accounts.

There are 4 standard reports that you can run or you can run a detailed analysis of one licensee’s progress towards meeting your jurisdiction’s CE requirements.
COPE Introduces Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education

In a continued effort to assure both quality and independence of optometric continuing education, COPE recently adopted the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education’s (ACCME) new Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education (SII). COPE joins several other accrediting organizations for healthcare professions that have also adopted the Standards including:

- Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
- American Academy of PAs (AAPA)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- American Osteopathic Association (AOA)
- Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education

COPE first adopted the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support (SCS) in 2010 and the Standards for Integrity and Independence are an updated and modernized version of the SCS that include some terminology updates and provide clear, streamlined instructions for the following areas:

- **Standard 1**: Ensure Content is Valid
- **Standard 2**: Prevent Commercial Bias and Marketing in Accredited Continuing Education
- **Standard 3**: Identify, Mitigate, and Disclose Relevant Financial Relationships
- **Standard 4**: Manage Commercial Support Appropriately
- **Standard 5**: Manage Ancillary Activities Offered in Conjunction with Accredited Continuing Education

The COPE SII went into effect July 1, 2022. Though the changes are minimal, COPE began to prepare CE Administrators/Providers for a smooth transition to the new SII in early 2022. Two virtual workshops were presented in the Spring and a webpage dedicated to COPE’s SII is available on ARBO’s website: [www.arbo.org/new-standards-integrity](http://www.arbo.org/new-standards-integrity).

The webpage houses helpful documents including a Getting Started Checklist, toolkit of important documents, an extensive FAQ and updated forms that are required for COPE accreditation. An archived video recording of COPE’s SII workshop is also available for CE Administrators/Providers to view at their convenience.

If you have any questions regarding the COPE SII, please reach out to Sierra Powell, Manager of Accreditation Services, at spowell@arbo.org.

ARBO’s CE Auditing Service for Member Boards

ARBO has a benefit for member boards that you may not be aware of: CE auditing services using OE TRACKER. Member boards have been able to utilize various auditing reports generated from OE TRACKER for many years. Now, ARBO is going a step further and will complete the audit process for you. This comes after numerous member boards have shown increasing interest in completing more extensive audits, but have expressed concern about internal resources and the time it takes to complete an audit.

Included in ARBO’s auditing services are a verification of jurisdictional CE requirements and review of the CE hours earned by each licensee/registrant to determine if the requirements for license renewal are met. ARBO is also able to send deficiency notices to licensees/registrants that are not in compliance, if desired. Member boards who are already utilizing ARBO’s auditing services include the Tennessee Board of Optometry, Louisiana State Board of Optometry, and College of Optometrists of Ontario.

Fees for ARBO’s auditing service will vary depending on your jurisdiction’s CE requirements, number of licensees/registrants and percentage being audited.

If you or your board is interested in learning more about ARBO’s auditing service, please contact Lisa Fennell at lfennell@arbo.org.
NBEO Laser and Surgical Procedures Exam (LSPE)

Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination

After years of planning and development, the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE®) launched in the fall of 2019 by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. The exam is administered at the state-of-the-art National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO®), located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

LSPE is the only nationally standardized examination of its kind, measuring competency in laser and surgical skills, decision-making, and patient management. It is a stand-alone, elective examination containing both a laser and surgical section. Each of these sections include performance of clinical skills and computer-based multiple-choice items.

LSPE was designed as a metric for state boards of optometry to measure competency in laser and surgical skills. With scope of practice in optometry expanding, LSPE provides an opportunity for candidates to assess their cognitive ability to appropriately manage and perform certain laser and surgical procedures.

Registration is open to 4th year optometric students, optometric residents, and optometric practitioners. Candidates may register to take the LSPE in its entirety or have the option to take the laser or surgical sections separately as needed. Registration is currently open. If you are interested, please contact us at nbeo@optometry.org.

An outline of the content included on the LSPE is below:

**Skills:**
- Selective laser trabeculoplasty
- Peripheral iridotomy
- YAG capsulotomy
- Suturing
- Chalazion excision

**Multiple-choice:**
- Selective laser trabeculoplasty
- Peripheral iridotomy
- YAG capsulotomy
- Suturing
- Eyelid surgery Injections
- Ocular anesthesia

More information can be found on the NBEO website, https://www.optometry.org/.
NBEO New Part III Exam

**Part III Restructure: Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS™) Examination**

Consistent progress is continuing in the development of PEPS, the new Part III examination. This new exam will complement the Part I ABS® and Part II PAM® exams in assessing a candidate’s competency for initial licensure for the independent practice of optometry. We are currently focused on creation of the software platform for the examination and case scenario development.

This summer NBEO completed a construction project to create enough examination lanes for the PEPS examination. This is important in allowing us to move into our next phase of pilot testing. Please see the below images of our recently completed construction.

NBEO is actively seeking scenario authors to write clinical cases for the PEPS exam. Those interested in this unique opportunity can contact us at nbeo@optometry.org.

For more information, you can visit our website, https://www.optometry.org/. We will continue to share announcements as PEPS development continues.
Become One of a Select Few!

As a regulatory board member and an optometrist, please consider becoming a reviewer of courses submitted for COPE accreditation. The time you spend contributing to the COPE review process will help ensure the quality and independence of continuing education. COPE accreditation benefits both practitioners in your jurisdiction as well as the public that we serve.

What do I need to do to become certified?

- You must complete and submit a course reviewer questionnaire.
- You must be endorsed by your optometry licensing Board; this endorsement will be secured by ARBO once you volunteer.
- You will be asked to complete COPE reviewer training.
- Once the training has been successfully completed, you will receive your congratulatory packet of information, including a certificate suitable for framing and a lapel pin.

How much time will this take from my already busy schedule?

- COPE reviewers are not requested to review more than two courses at any given time.
- The review of a course typically takes about 30 minutes.

Please consider volunteering and contributing to the COPE review process!

For more information please visit our website at [www.arbo.org](http://www.arbo.org) and click on COPE, then click on “COPE Reviewers” and “Become a Reviewer” or send an email to arbo@arbo.org.

---

ARBO BOARD OF DIRECTORS—OFFICERS:
President—Coby Ramsey, OD
Vice President—Jeffery Yunker, OD
Secretary-Treasurer—Kenneth Lawenda, OD
Immediate Past President—Patrick O’Neill, OD, FAAO

DIRECTORS:
James Campbell, OD
Terri Haley, OD
Glenn Kawaguchi, OD
Margaret Whelan, MPA
Donovan Crouch, OD, Consultant

ARBO STAFF—
Lisa Fennell, Executive Director
Kalimah Bayne, Program Coordinator
Ron Cassel, Director of Operations
Hope Cole, Program Coordinator
Donna DeLay, Program Manager/COPE Administrator
Brittany Howard, MBA, Program Coordinator
Jessi McVean, Customer Service Manager
Sierra Powell, Manager, Accreditation Services
Audrey Vazquez, Program Coordinator