

EYE OPENERS

Eye Openers is GSO's members-only newsletter that focuses on current issues in ophthalmology, member news, association news and updates, legislative issues, practice management, and other subjects of interest to Georgia ophthalmologists.



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JOIN US FOR THE 10TH GEM EYE MEETING

Saturday, February 8, 2020

Make your plans now to attend GSO's 10th Annual GEM Eye Meeting! This year's event will be held Saturday, February 8th and we'll be returning to the Westin Buckhead Atlanta.

Highlights of this year's event include AMA's **Patrice Harris, MD**; AAO Past President **Keith Carter, MD**; **Robert Melendez, MD, MBA**; **Thomas Lee, MD**; **Lynn Gordon, MD, PhD**; **Jacquelyn O'Banion, MD, MSc**; and more!

Of course, the GEM Eye Meeting isn't only for physicians! It features tracks for your admins and techs, too. Registration is now open on ga-eyemds.org and our room block is available at the Westin Buckhead. Don't miss out on this awesome event!

SUMMER MEETING WRAP-UP

If you couldn't make it, here's what you missed!

Back in August, GSO members celebrated the end of summer with our 2019 Annual CME Meeting at the lovely Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island. Beginning on Friday, August 2, we had a packed schedule filled with fascinating educational sessions, a wonderful President's Reception, and a family movie night.

On Saturday morning, the Georgia Medical Eye PAC welcomed Georgia State Senator **Ben Watson, MD**, who represents Georgia's District 1 and serves as the Chairman of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

The Society's Annual Business Meeting was held Sunday morning, during which we reviewed important information about the Georgia Society of Ophthalmology and voted in a new class of Councilors.

The Annual CME Meeting is an outstanding opportunity to learn with your colleagues at the beach. Go ahead and mark the weekend of **July 10, 2020** and plan to join us as we return to The Cloister!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Travis Lindley & Devin Krecl



As the holiday season approaches, we must also remember that it is just over a month until the 2020 Legislative Session begins. Though this time of year tends to be quiet on the legislative front, your legislative team has certainly stayed busy! There have been meetings with key gubernatorial administrators, the Lieutenant Governor and Chief of Staff, Health Committee Chairs, and MAG leadership and staff. Additionally, we have been attending the monthly board meetings of the Department of Community Health, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Know that we are paying close attention to the issues that matter most to physicians and ophthalmologists in Georgia.

Looking ahead, we are anticipating legislation this session on tort reform, insurance reform, pharmacy benefit manager reform, and surprise billing. Stay tuned as we keep you posted on all these topics throughout the session.

We are actively following Governor Kemp's waivers. Be on the lookout for an email explaining what these waivers are and how they will affect you, your practice, and your patients. We will be meeting with administrative officials in the coming weeks and will keep you up to date.

The 2020 Legislative Session begins on Monday, January 13th. As the that time draws near, we encourage you to join us by donating to the Georgia Medical Eye PAC. Major changes are taking place in the political arena and we must engage. Georgia has many new legislators and this presents us with a great opportunity to inform and educate the next wave of leaders. The freshman legislators of today will shape the state of medicine tomorrow, and we must embrace these newly elected officials.

There are also a few important dates to mark on your calendar moving into the new year: Physicians' Day at the State Capitol will be held February 19, 2020 and GSO Residents' Day at the State Capitol will be held February 25, 2020. If you are interested in participating in either of these events, please contact Rachel Schneeberg in the Executive Office at rachel@gayemds.org or 404.299.6588.

If you would like to learn more about the political process at the state level, do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to hearing from you!

EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT

by Travis Lindley

Executive Office is busy looking ahead to 2020.

On an ongoing basis, your Executive Office is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the society. Every day, we continue to maintain and update the GSO website, manage membership communications, participate in AAO conference calls, and facilitate Council meetings. The Executive Office has also been working on meeting with both residency programs in Georgia to encourage early engagement in the society from the next generation of Georgia ophthalmologists.

Our meetings team has been hard at work securing contracts for our future meetings. Note the calendar on the bottom of this page and block those dates so you don't miss out!

We are already working towards a great 2020, during which we will celebrate the GEM Eye Meeting's 10th anniversary. The meeting was founded in 2009 as a coming together of all of GSO, Emory, and MCG for a full day of continuing education and collegiality. We are excited to honor the leadership of GSO from the past decade who have worked tirelessly to keep this outstanding tradition going and growing. Be on the lookout for information about special events to mark this anniversary year. We are also honored to welcome Georgia's own **Patrice Harris, MD**, the 2019 president of the American Medical Association as one of our speakers. Her session will certainly be a highlight of the meeting and not to be missed!

In the coming year, we will continue to fulfill our mission of high-quality CME at our GEM Eye Meeting and Annual CME Meeting and by advocating for our patients and our profession during the legislative session. We welcome your feedback and ideas, so please reach out and get involved in GSO!

SAVE THE DATES

We know how busy you are! To help you plan out as far ahead as possible, here are several upcoming dates you can pencil in.

2020

GEM Eye Meeting

February 8, 2020

Westin Buckhead Atlanta

2020 Annual Meeting

July 10-12, 2020

The Cloister

2021

GEM Eye Meeting

February 6, 2021

Westin Buckhead Atlanta

2021 Annual Meeting

July 30-August 1, 2021

The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

2022

2022 Annual Meeting

July 15-17, 2022

The Cloister

AAO UPDATE

What you need to know



At each Council meeting, our Councilor to the AAO, **S. Anna Kao, MD**, provides an update from the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Most recently, GSO President **Jeremy Jones, MD** went to the AAO Annual Meeting in San Francisco, where Dr. Jones completed his participation as GSO's nominee to the Academy's Leadership Development Program (LDP) XXI, class of 2019. In January 2019, Dr. Jones took part in a 2 1/2 day interactive session in San Francisco covering a wide variety of leadership and association management topics. Then, at April's Mid-Year Forum in Washington, DC, Dr. Jones met with Georgia's Members of Congress and their staff to discuss issues important to the medical profession as part of Congressional Advocacy Day. Finally, in San Francisco this October, Dr. Jones heard from the leadership of the AAO and the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology regarding global collaborative efforts and key priority issues for organized ophthalmology. We are proud of Dr. Jones and look forward to seeing more great things from him in the future!

Also upcoming from the Academy is a member survey of its entire US membership. The purpose of the survey will be to gauge members' opinions of including optometrists who work in practices with ophthalmologists in some aspects of the Academy's meetings in the same way that technicians and administrators are without changing any advocacy positions. The results will be made available in early 2020 and will help guide the national organization in its policy moving forward. For more information about the survey, see the article in the December 2019 issue of *EyeNet*. In the article, Academy CEO **David W. Parke, II, MD** more fully explains the purpose of the survey and the thinking behind it.