

# AAOP Newsletter

American Association of Ophthalmic Pathologists

April 16, 2002

## AAOP Website

Dr. Ralph Eagle has completed the development of our AAOP Website and it will be up shortly. The email address is [www.eyepath.org](http://www.eyepath.org) and the site contains important information about our organization. In addition, we are phasing in to host the newsletter on the site and eliminate the paper newsletter. An updated membership directory and the AAOP bylaws will be available as a protected PDF file. The password needed to open the documents is AAOP (uppercase letters only).

## Changes in Government Regulations for J1 Visas

Proposed changes in the J1-visa regulations may affect the availability of Ophthalmic Pathology Fellows and other training positions in Ophthalmology. This notice, courtesy of Robert Folberg, MD, is to update you on continued discussions between the US Department of State (DOS) and ECFMG regarding J-1 visa sponsorship eligibility. As designated by federal regulation, ECFMG serves as the J-1 visa sponsor for "foreign medical graduates seeking to pursue graduate medical education or training at accredited schools of medicine or scientific institutions."

The specific issue in question involves the continued sponsorship of individuals by ECFMG in clinical training in recognized subspecialties that are directly associated with ACGME accredited programs, but are not independently accredited by ACGME. These programs are sometimes referred to as "nonstandard" programs. They are typically offered at academic medical centers in the United States and frequently involve cutting edge therapies and procedures in medical subspecialties.

Officials at the Department of State (DOS) have informed ECFMG that it is the current position of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that

sponsorship of J-1 visa for physicians is meant to be limited to ACGME accredited programs. In this context, it is important to clarify the eligibility for sponsorship in subspecialties not accredited by ACGME but recognized by an appropriate Specialty Board. ECFMG may continue to sponsor individuals in a subspecialty that is recognized by the appropriate Specialty Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (as evidenced by a letter from the Executive Director of the appropriate Specialty Board) even if that subspecialty is not accredited by ACGME.

DOS advised ECFMG that any request for review or modification of this position should be directed to HHS by medical organizations with an interest in this issue. Therefore, upon recommendation of DOS, ECFMG will convene the pertinent medical organizations (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, American Board of Medical Specialties, American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, Association of American Colleges, and Council of Medical Specialty Societies) on this issue.

## EOPS Meeting

The EOPS meeting is to be held in Ann Arbor from September 26-28, 2002.

The upcoming AAOP/ISOP meeting will be on October 18 and/or 19 in Orlando. Details will be included in the September newsletter.

The Theobald Society will meet in Milwaukee on May 17 and 18, 2002.

## The AOS-Knapp Fellowship

In 1999 the American Ophthalmological Society (AOS) Council approved offering the AOS-Knapp Pathology Fellowship. A matching grant to support

the Fellowship was provided by Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. (RPB). The Fellowship grants support for two consecutive years of training with a stipend annually. It requires a first year of diagnostic and experimental ophthalmic pathology training with a second year which may include a clinical subspecialty, as well as additional experimental pathology experience.

The Fellowship's purpose is to provide a flexible funding vehicle that can incorporate support for a year of non-pathology clinical training. In so doing, this should encourage the training of additional ophthalmic pathologists so critical to residency training and to the science of ophthalmology. For the clinical fellowship candidate with a strong academic interest, the Fellowship provides support over two years at no cost to the training institution as opposed to the "institution standard" fellowship stipend at cost to the training institution.

Any Department Chair, fellowship preceptor, or potential candidate can contact Dr. Froncie Gutman at (216) 445-8145 for information regarding this year's applications.

## Awards

Dr. Ray Font received the RPB Senior Scientific Investigator Award in 2001. We congratulate Dr. Font on this incredible accomplishment. His contributions to the science and clinical expertise in the Ophthalmic Pathology are appreciated by many.

Zeynel A. Karcioğlu, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology & Pathology at Tulane University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA, and president elect of AAOP, was recently elected to be a member of the state's Eminent Scholar Society by the Louisiana Board of Regents. Dr. Karcioğlu, who holds a Regent's Chair in Ocular Oncology, was cited for exceptional and laudatory contributions to higher education of the State of Louisiana. Dr. Karcioğlu, who limits his clinical practice to eye cancer and orbital tumors/diseases as a consultant to Tulane Cancer Center holds a Regent's endowment, which is

one of the few in the United States that is dedicated to the support of research, education and clinical study of ocular oncology.

## Job Opportunities

The Departments of Ophthalmology and Pathology of the University of Ottawa offer a one-year funded fellowship in ophthalmic pathology starting July 01, 2003. This year may occur prior to or after residency training in ophthalmology or pathology. Please direct all inquiries to: Seymour Brownstein, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology & Pathology, University of Ottawa Eye Institute, 501 Smyth Road, Room 3818, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1H8L6.

## AAOP Business

For those individuals who have not paid their 2000 dues, please send \$75 to our treasurer, Dr. Martha Farber, at 24 Wexford Road, Delmar, New York, 12054.

