Technicians & Nurses Program

The International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO®) is pleased to sponsor the Technicians & Nurses Program, April 14-16 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. IJCAHPO is the national certifying agency for allied ophthalmic personnel. Certification is available at 3 levels: assistant, technician, and medical technologist, along with subspecialty certifications available for surgical assisting, ultrasound biometrist, diagnostic sonographer, scribe certification, and corporate assistant. In pursuit of its mission, IJCAHPO also provides education and services for allied ophthalmic personnel.

In addition to the IJCAHPO-sponsored Technicians & Nurses Program, ATPO (Association of Technical Personnel in Ophthalmology) is offering COA/COT/COMT Certification Exam Review Sessions and Train the Trainer on Friday, April 13, 2018, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. For more information, please see the registration form and fees included in this Meeting Preview.

Further information regarding the Technicians & Nurses Program, ATPO’s Certification Exam Review Sessions, and Train the Trainer, or IJCAHPO certification, is available by calling IJCAHPO at (800) 284-3937 or visiting jcahpo.org.

Attendees do not register by session. They can choose to attend individual courses from either of the two sessions, each day. There are no individual tickets sold for courses; your badge allows access to the programs.

A joint registration category is available for those interested in attending both the ASOA and Technicians & Nurses programs. Crossover between the ASOA and Technicians & Nurses programs will be permitted to those registered in the joint registration category only. Those registered solely for either the ASOA or Technicians & Nurses program will not be allowed to crossover. All registrants in either category are welcome to attend the ASCRS program.

Continuing Education Credit

The Technicians & Nurses Program has been IJCAHPO approved. Credits awarded appear in the Final Program. A maximum of 21 (Group A) credits are available for this program.

Additionally, allied ophthalmic personnel can earn continuing education credits in Group B by attending physician courses/symposia/paper sessions at ASCRS that are designated for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. The following restrictions apply: COAs and COTs receive 1 credit for 2 hours attended; COMTs receive 1 credit for 1 hour attended.

The Technicians & Nurses Program has been submitted for approval to award CA BRN, OPS and AOC credits.

Program Sponsored by IJCAHPO
Saturday, April 14

Session A

TNC-101  Disaster Strikes! Prepare, Respond, Then Face the Music
8:00 – 9:00 am  Diana Hatsis, BSN, RN, COT

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will help ensure your ophthalmic practice staff are ready to respond to almost any emergency. It will describe the organizations available to assist with disaster preparedness and response, and discuss how to prepare office equipment and unstable medications for any impending power outage.

TNC-102  We See It All in the Triage Clinic
9:15 – 10:15   Jacqueline Pullos, COMT, OSC

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will review the basics of ocular emergencies, urgencies, and semi-urgencies. Case studies will be discussed featuring the usual and unusual seen in the Triage Clinic of the Moran Eye Center. These case studies will emphasize the technician’s role from the screening call to the physician’s visit.

TNC-103  Testing for Premium IOLs with OCT and Topography
10:30 – 11:30  Sponsored by the Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society (OPS)
Sarah Armstrong, CRA, OCT-C, FOPS
Faculty: Kenneth L. Cohen, MD

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss the way that a surgeon uses the test results to determine which lens to use and the best surgical method based on different types of patients. Tips for acquiring the accurate test results needed to determine the proper premium IOL will be reviewed.

TNC-104  Beyond Patient Workup: Using Technicians’ Skills in New Ways
11:35 – 12:35 pm  Mary Pat Johnson, COMT, COE, CPC, CPMA

Synopsis & Educational Value: The savvy administrator utilizes ophthalmic technicians as a resource in training, chart review, patient schedule and staff workflow, and clinical studies. Course will discuss how opportunities for development help retain good employees, and how knowledgeable technicians offer a lot to a practice.
TNC-105  What?! I Have an Rx Check?
1:30 – 2:30  Sergina M. Flaherty, COMT, OSC

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will provide participants with tips and techniques to troubleshoot return patients dissatisfied with their new glasses or prescription. Multiple case scenarios will be described and solutions presented.

TNC-106  The Dawn of OCT-A: Is Sodium Fluorescein Angiography Dead?
2:45 – 3:45  Denice A. Barsness, CRA, COMT, CDOS, ROUB

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will provide a broad overview of OCT-A technology, including its applications and limitations. Case studies comparing conventional fluorescein angiography with OCT-A will be presented.

TNC-107 Goldmann Visual Field Testing
4:00 – 5:00  Craig Simms, BSc, COMT, ROUB, CDOS

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will take participants back to the roots of Goldmann visual field testing and illustrate that in the correct hands, the Goldmann perimeter is still a valid test today. It will cover the visual pathways, the normal visual field, the basics of the Goldmann perimeter, and visual field defects illustrated on Goldmann visual fields.

Session B

TNC-108 Preparing for Joint Commission Accreditation
8:00 – 9:00 am  Sponsored by The Joint Commission
Lynette E. Mundey, MD

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will review the process for successfully completing a Joint Commission accreditation survey, including preparing for the survey, participating in on-site survey activities and following up after the on-site survey visit. Examine the challenges that can occur and suggestions for helping the process proceed smoothly. A question and answer segment will focus on participants’ concerns about issues or questions that can arise during the Joint Commission accreditation process.

TNC-109 Anesthesia in the ASC
9:15 – 10:15  Caren Cajares, DNP, CRNA
Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will focus on the entire spectrum of anesthetic management of eye surgery candidates in the ASC. Participants will understand the patient selection process, choice of anesthetic type, and safety in anesthesia as it pertains to the ambulatory eye surgery patient. Peri-operative management of the ambulatory patient will be discussed.

**TNC-110**  
*Cataract and Micro-Invasive Glaucoma Surgery*  
*10:30 – 11:30*  
*Rahul T. Pandit, MD*

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss and explain the various MIGS surgeries currently available including: implantable stents, single-use disposable devices, trabectome and endocyclophotocoagulation. It will also review IOP assessment in the clinic including methodologies and confounding factors, as well as discussion with patients and patient selection.

**TNC-111**  
*Updates on Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery*  
*11:35 – 12:35 pm*  
*Michael D. Patterson, DO*

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will highlight the new advances and treatments in glaucoma. Highlights will include preoperative patient selection, intraoperative surgical techniques, and postoperative data and results. Videos will be used to illustrate the different surgical techniques.

**TNC-112**  
*Novel Surgical Guidance System and Laser-Assisted Technologies*  
*1:30 – 2:30*  
*Jonathan D. Solomon, MD*

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will review the FDA-approved technology available to assist with cataract surgery that enables greater precision when combined with Augmented Reality, 3-D imaging, and intraoperative aberrometry and computer registration.

**TNC-113**  
*What is This? Ocular Findings in Systemic Disease*  
*2:45 – 3:45*  
*Michael W. Stewart, MD*

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss the relationship between the eye and essential systemic diseases. Eyes have often been called the “window” to the rest of the body, a tribute to the many systemic diseases whose ocular findings can lead to accurate diagnoses.

**TNC-114**  
*The Debate Over Prophylactic Antibiotic Use During Cataract Surgery*  
*4:00 – 5:00*  
*Michael W. Stewart, MD*
Faculty: Neal H. Shorstein, MD

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will cover the use of antibiotics before, during and after cataract surgery. The signs and symptoms of post-operative endophthalmitis will be discussed. The use of prophylactic intraocular antibiotic use will be debated.

Sunday, April 15

Session A

TNC-201 CUDE: Compassionate Use Device Exemptions
8:00 – 9:00 am Michael E. Snyder, MD

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss the Compassionate Use Device Exemption process, when CUDE can and should be used, and present some unique cases in which CUDE was required.

TNC-202 Comparing Diagnostic Function and Structure Tests and Use of Electrophysiology Results for Subclinical Treatment Changes
9:15 – 10:15 Joanne Yawn, COT
Faculty: William E. Sponsel, MD, FACS

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will compare standard tests of visual function and structure to visual electrophysiology test results. Asymptomatic diseases like glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and AMD will be discussed. Based on test results, we will review impact on care. Treatment changes based on visual dysfunction will include drug and surgical intervention, changes to follow-up frequency, referrals for co-management, and objective evaluation of disease progression and efficacy.

TNC-203 The Importance of Pre-Operative Measurements for IOL Calculations
10:30 – 11:30 Amy V. Jost, COMT, CCRC, OSC

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will present an overview of various biometry options and the comparisons between them. It will discuss commonly used biometry equipment used to measure axial length, keratometry readings, and other measurements needed for IOL calculations. The need for accurate and consistent readings in order to minimize post-op refraction errors will be emphasized.

TNC-204 Optimizing Patient Flow for Technicians & Nurses
Synopsis & Educational Value: Patient flow can be a challenge for most, however by applying a thought out and systematic approach, one can achieve their practice goals. Course will assist the technician/clinical staff with collaborating as a team to formulate simple solutions to complex problems, e.g. patient flow, while increasing morale, thinking outside the box, and learning how to use simple project management tools and techniques to achieve success.

TNC-205    Cases That Tell a Story
1:30 – 2:30    Timothy Bennett, CRA, OCT-C, FOPS

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will present a series of unusual cases using a variety of imaging modalities, including fundus photography, monochromatic photography, SD-OCT, fluorescein angiography, and IR confocal imaging. In each case, diagnostic imaging played a key role in telling the whole story.

TNC-206    Toric and Presbyopia-Correcting IOLs: Dealing with Patients — Financial and Legal Ramifications
2:45 – 3:45    Kirk A. Mack, COMT, COE, CPC, CPMA

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss the requirements and best practices for informing patients of their financial obligations when placing toric and/or presbyopia-correcting IOLs. We will review examples of what can happen when the patient is not fully informed and charges are not supported.

TNC-207    A to Z in Ophthalmology
4:00 – 5:00    Craig Simms, BSc, COMT, ROUB, CDOS

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will review an example of an eye condition or disease for each letter of the alphabet. Photos, ultrasound, electrophysiology, IVFA, and video images of ocular conditions will be used to illustrate pathology. A short discussion on conditions will be offered to help the participants recognize them in their clinic.

Session B

TNC-208    ASC Survey Trends and How to Achieve Compliance
8:00 – 9:00 am    Sponsored by AMSURG
                 Jan Allison, RN, CHSP

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will assist attendees with understanding key trends in deficiencies cited during regulatory and accreditation surveys, and the three specific areas identified as the root cause for these deficiencies. The session will also discuss key compliance strategies targeted to drive survey readiness.
TNC-209  Impeccable Service in an ASC
9:15 – 10:15  Nikki Hurley, RN, MBA, COE

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss ideas to a different approach to patient care in an ASC. Ideas to create an awesome experience for surgical patients, engaging staff, ensuring safety throughout the surgical visit, and increasing patient satisfaction will be shared.

TNC-210  Basic Principles for a Successful Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Program
10:30 – 11:30  Jan Allison, RN, CHSP
Sponsored by AMSURG

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will review the essential elements of a QAPI program in compliance with federal and accreditation standards. It will help participants look beyond traditional data for QAPI projects and identify issues within the facility that have an impact on clinical quality and patient safety. We will view how to incorporate QAPI into daily thinking and achieve engagement of staff.

TNC-211  Environmental Sustainability in Your ASC — Reducing the Footprint of Care
11:35 – 12:35 pm  Cassandra L. Thiel, PhD

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will explore the ASC through a “systems lens,” looking at the interconnections between infrastructure, energy, materials, expertise, and throughput. We will also examine a case study of “sustainability” in eye surgery and discuss practical methods of reducing an ASC’s environmental footprint.

TNC-212  What You Need to Know About Current Diagnosis and Treatment of Dry Eye
1:30 – 2:30  Stephen S. Lane, MD

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will describe the latest technology to diagnose DED, interpretation of the data generated, and how the information can guide treatment paradigms.

TNC-213  The Red Eye
2:45 – 3:45  Mark A. Rolain, MD

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will review causes, work-up, differential diagnosis, and various treatments of red eye.

TNC-214  ReLEx SMILE
Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss all aspects of SMILE surgery including indications, contraindications, outcomes, complications, and management.

Monday, April 16

Session A

TNC-301  Slit-Lamp Exams: What Can a Tech Do? A Lot!
8:00 – 9:00 am  Wendy M. Ford, COMT; FCLSA; NCLEM

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will cover a systematic approach to using the slit-lamp and the many uses for technicians, including patient exams, tonometry, contact lens exams, photography, measurements, videography and more. Discussion will include slit-lamp illumination techniques, normal ocular anatomy, and common ocular pathology, as well how to use a hand-held device for slit-lamp photography and videography.

TNC-302  IOL Calculations
9:15 – 10:15  Jack T. Holladay, MD, MSEE

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss methods to select the proper intraocular lens to ensure patient satisfaction after cataract surgery. Accuracy requires minimizing measurement errors, using the correct IOL formulas, and measuring patients postoperatively. Unusual cases such as post refractive, silicone in the vitreous and retinal detachment will also be discussed.

TNC-303  Ultrasound for the Diabetic Patient
10:30 – 11:30  Craig Simms, BSc, COMT, ROUB, CDOS

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will explore ultrasonic techniques specific to ultrasonic findings in a diabetic patient. A review of examination techniques will be covered, as well as techniques specific to diabetic retinopathy. Specific techniques will include examination of vitreous hemorrhage examination, retinal tear, and posterior hyphema.

TNC-304  Difficult Physician-Patient Relationships
11:35 – 12:35 pm  Hans K. Bruhn, MHS

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will help attendees identify difficult patients and describe how to reduce medical malpractice risk associated with difficult patients.

TNC-305  The Spectrum of Retinal Imaging
Timothy Bennett, CRA, OCT-C, FOPS

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss how the variety of instruments, filters, and lasers incorporated in modern retinal imaging maximize diagnostic information. It will briefly describe common techniques, filters, and wavelengths used in fundus cameras and scanning laser ophthalmoscopes (SLO) for fundus photography, monochromatic imaging, angiography, fundus autofluorescence and OCT.

TNC-306 Making a Difference: Working with Your Patient Toward a Happy Clinical Result
Dianna E. Graves, BS Ed, COMT, OSC

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss office visit dynamics from the perspective of the patient, technician, and doctor. It will review the expectations of each, and how to ensure that these expectations are met for an excellent office visit.

TNC-307 How a Technician is Key to Proper Billing and Coding
Patricia Kennedy, COMT, CPC, COE

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will illustrate common problems found on audit, and how the technician can be instrumental in preventing them. In many cases, the last person to “touch” a chart, either paper or electronic, is a technician. This makes the role of a technician key to the success of a third-party audit.

Session B

TNC-308 Research Ready? Preparing Your Practice for Clinical Trial Participation
Daniel H. Chang, MD
Faculty: Jacqueline Whinery, COA, CCRC, OSC, OCS; Vance Thompson, MD; Keeley Puls, COA, CCRC

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss key aspects of clinical research study participation in an ophthalmology practice setting. It will include an overview of regulatory compliance, good clinical practice, and the responsibilities of the principal investigator and other study personnel.

TNC-309 Sterilization Quality Control for the Ambulatory Surgery Center
Craig Wallace
Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will review the key elements of quality control monitoring of the different types of sterilization processes commonly used in surgery centers summarized from the pages of the most up-to-date standards and recommended practices.

TNC-310  You Saw What? A Curious Compendium of Ocular Oddities
10:30 – 11:30
William H. Ehlers, MD

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will review a collection of cases that demonstrate some rare and fascinating ocular maladies. It will feature a mix of history, case presentations, and epidemiology that cover unusual diagnoses from around the world, running the gamut from Acanthameoba Keratitis through Zelwegger Syndrome.

TNC-311  Presbyopia Update
11:35 – 12:35 pm  John T. LiVecchi, MD, FACS

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will advance the attendee's knowledge of presbyopia. It will review the mechanisms of accommodation and discuss the current methods to surgically correct presbyopia. A brief history of the evolution of presbyopia will also be discussed.

TNC-312  IOL Options in the Presence of Capsular Tears
1:30 – 2:30  George H. Beiko, BM, BCh

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will present various techniques for stable IOL placement in the presence of capsular tears or where there is minimal or absent capsular support.

TNC-313  Emergency Preparedness Updates for the Medicare Certified ASC
2:45 – 3:45  Elethia Dean, RN, PhD

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will discuss recently implemented Medicare requirements for the ambulatory surgery center setting as related to emergency preparedness. It will cover emergency preparedness regulations, as well as factors that must be implemented, in order to ensure success on the next Medicare survey.

TNC-314  Compliance in the Ophthalmic ASC in 2018
4:00 – 5:00  Elethia Dean, RN, PhD

Synopsis & Educational Value: Course will cover content from surveys focused on how to achieve compliance in 2018, including – but not limited to – instrument sterilization in the ophthalmic ASC, medication administration, infection control, and more.