



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



MEET OWL

OWL is the only non-profit in ophthalmology to unite every stakeholder: leading practice administrators, industry executives, consultants, media, PR, physicians and more. It is, inarguably, the best network in Ophthalmology.

VISION

OWL's vision is to promote and develop diverse leadership to advance Ophthalmic Innovation and Patient Care.

MISSION

OWL works across Eyecare. Our mission is to provide professional and personal development and create opportunities for collaboration.



"An organization like OWL is so important because it brings together people with different experiences, different backgrounds, different roles, that love what they do and can help sharpen each other. It's the old proverb "iron sharpens iron". We're bringing together people that can help each other get sharper."

Ryan Brown, Sun Pharma

OWL'S REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP - October, 2023

OWL has increased momentum this past year by intentionally beginning in-roads into two new verticals for us – bringing the OWL mission and vision to Optometry and Europe. We were thrilled to host two impactful programs in these new areas in 2023:

OPTOMETRY – Our “Bridging the O’s” initiative led us to the Academy of Optometry in New Orleans, with a panel discussion on advancing diversity in optometric leadership. We look forward to future collaborations in this area.

EUROPE – Our first program was an “impossible to forget” interview with UK TV presenter Katie Piper, who survived an acid attack in her 20s, interviewed by her eye surgeon, Sheraz Daya, MD. We were thrilled to be part of ESCRS Vienna and look forward to future programs and events targeted to our European members and in growing a presence overseas.

EVENTS – We started the year with our annual joint Reception with WIO held during Hawaiian Eye in January. Our Networking Events during ASCRS and AECOS's Summer Symposium were very well-received and helped to strengthen and build connections for attendees. This year's Signature Event during ASCRS highlighted an all-female military panel discussion and we look forward to shining the light on the importance of allyship to those with disabilities in our upcoming AAO Signature Event & Awards Ceremony.

MEMBERSHIP – Comparing to same time 2022, OWL's membership is down slightly at around 900 active members. This can be attributed to the loss of memberships from partner companies Novartis and Aerie. However, revenue from membership dues remains on par with 2022 and we are thrilled to see the same strong commitment to OWL from our Champion Members, our sustaining membership. Over 12% of OWL's membership is made up of Champions - members who are advocates and champions of the OWL Mission, Vision, and Values.

FINANCES – OWL has maintained a strong financial situation with unrestricted net assets up 22% over the same time previous year - as at September 30, 2023. The continued support of our sponsors and members, along with effective management of event and program expenses, have helped OWL maintain this positive situation. We were honored to have renewed support from most of our larger partner companies this year, in addition to welcoming first-time sponsors in **RxSight, Clearwave, Sight Sciences, Topcon Healthcare and Neurotech Pharmaceuticals**. Welcome to the OWL family!



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LOCAL CHAPTERS – We were pleased to provide events in certain of our local chapters this year with meetings of our SoCal chapter held during Octane’s OTF in June, as well as the launch of our new Florida chapter in April, when OWL hosted a networking lunch meeting in Fort Myers. We have plans for more chapter events before year-end in Texas and SoCal and look forward to reconnecting in these, and more, of our local regions in 2024.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING – As well as our physical gatherings, OWL was pleased to continue to offer online programs and, by the end of the year, will have presented 6 virtual offerings in 2023, ranging from networking Connects, training on Emotional Intelligence - to our Eyes on Inclusion discussion around the importance of Mentorship in the LGBTQ+ community. Thanks to everyone who joined us online - you can find recordings of these programs, and more, in your membership account ‘On Demand’.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – OWL was delighted to host our second annual Leadership Summit in September in Austin, TX, bringing together leaders from across eyecare. Targeted at people in mid-career, this new Summit included topics such as building diverse teams, leadership challenges and opportunities, entrepreneurship, coaching and making an impact beyond your job title. We concluded this year’s Summit with a give-back, meal-packing event hosted with Rise Against Hunger. I’m pleased to report our volunteers managed to pack over 7,300 meals for those with food insecurities. We look forward to making the Summit an annual event and a staple in the OWL calendar.

OWL FELLOWS – OWL’s mentorship program continues to make a difference for our participants. Now in our fifth year, our goal always is to ensure we make well-matched connections for the greatest career impact. OWL is grateful to have such a rich community volunteering their time to raise up others and we look forward to continuing this program for years to come. Applications for this program open in the summer. If you’re interested in volunteering to become an OWL mentor, reach out and let us know!

“OWL gives an opportunity for leaders in the space to give back to individuals who are earlier in their career or continuing to advance in their career. We oftentimes learn best from those who have gone before us.”

Joe Boyd,
Executive Biotech Advisors



OWL'S IMPACT PROGRAMS



FELLOWS
Early Career



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
Mid-Career



GET-ON-BOARD WITH OWL
Senior Level



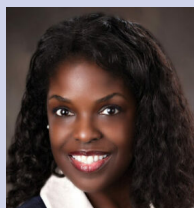
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OFFICERS FOR 2023-24:



PRESIDENT:
Nivine Woods



**PRESIDENT-ELECT/
VICE-PRESIDENT:**
Renee Bovelle, MD



**IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT:**
Erin
Schallhorn Powers



**SECRETARY/
TREASURER:**
Kristen
Harmon Ingenito

LEADERSHIP CHANGES - *Board of Directors*



Bindu Manne
Ocuphire Pharma

Bindu Manne, Ocuphire Pharma

We send our sincere thanks to Bindu Manne who rolls off from the OWL Board after several years of service. In addition to ongoing governance, Bindu contributed to getting OWL on the social media map posting almost single-handedly for several months, leading in our Membership Committee, and helping us to produce relevant blog posts highlighting OWL's sponsors/members. Those that know Bindu will agree she is one of the best connectors around – consistently looking for ways to increase the networks of others and to make impactful connections.

We thank Bindu for her invaluable input to OWL's strategy. She (and her fashionista presence!) will be greatly missed in our leadership.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2023-24

OWL is pleased to welcome two new Board Members to help guide the organization forward.

We look forward to their input and collaboration.

Please meet and help us welcome:



Laurie Ferguson
Neurotech
Pharmaceuticals



Magda Michna, PhD
STAAR Surgical

"OWL has helped me develop my career and make important connections - and to be able to get involved in something other than just my daily work that I do for my job. So it helped me to connect and expand my network as well as my experience and I think that was a catalyst for me early on and it continues to deliver for me now that I'm more advanced in my career."

Yari Mitchell,
Y Factor Consulting

