OPHTHALMIC HOSPITALIST INTEREST GROUP

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OPHTHALMIC HOSPITALIST INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Announcements

Join the Community!

Have a question or topic about inpatient/ER consults? Share on the AAO/OHIG community! Log in with your AAO username.

OHIG Website Resource Center

Check out prior newsletters, job postings, and consult resources on the OHIG website.

AAO Virtual Meeting

If you missed the annual meeting you can watch on-demand courses on the AAO virtual meeting platform.

Highlighted presentations:

Mythbreakers in Ophthalmic Trauma

Ocular Trauma Essentials from ER to OR

AAO 2026 CONNECT

In This Issue:

- *OHIG/Consult Updates from NOLA*
- *Articles on Hospital/ED Transfer Trends*
- *AAO On Call Webinar Resources*
- *OHIG Round Table Topics*
- *OHIG Medical Society Updates*

Articles

Trends in Ophthalmic Hospital Transfers and Consultations Across US Academic Centers, JAMA Network Open, 2026

Seeing a rise in in ophthalmology transfers at your hospital? Check out this study spearheaded by OHIG members Dr. Shu Feng and Dr. Jen Yu which was presented at the annual AAO meeting in NOLA.

The Role of Telemedicine on Interhospital Transfer Outcomes: A Systematic Review, Annals of Internal Med, 2026

Telemedicine may effectively help with triage and reduce avoidable inter-hospital transfers in safe and efficient ways.

PEARLS



AAO Webinar: On Call Under Pressure- Practical Lessons for Ophthalmologists



AAO President Dr. Chris Rapuano leads a panel on how ophthalmologists and hospital administrations can best work together to coordinate effective and efficient eye care for patients.

This session also features case presentations (a deferred consult, a scope refusal, and a transfer gone wrong) with Michelle Pineda, OMIC risk manager, and Dr. Kristin Hawthorne working through the clinical, documentation, and liability implications.

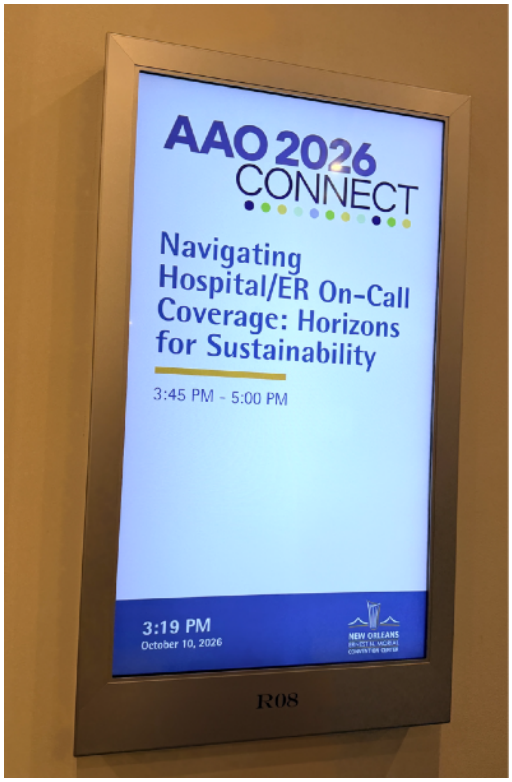
Webinar Link

CONSULT ROUNDS

We were delighted to see so many OHIG members at the recent AAO meeting in NOLA! Here are some consult related updates.

1) OHIG Panel Presentation: Navigating Hospital/ED On Call Coverage: Horizons for Sustainability





Special thanks to our OHIG panelists:
- Dr. Amanda Redfern
- Dr. Shu Feng
- Dr. Valerie Biousse
- Dr. Craig Czyz

Featured topics: ophthalmic hospitalists, hospital transfer trends, ED ophthalmic imaging, and private practice and legal considerations for call coverage.

AAO Webinar: Ophthalmic Trauma Management for the On-Call Ophthalmologist

A joint collaboration with the American Society of Ophthalmic Trauma (ASOT), Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), and AAO.

This fast-paced webinar provides an overview of ophthalmic procedures in the emergency room setting, intended for residents or anyone in need of a refresher before taking call.

Topics include:

Corneal Laceration Repairs: Principles and Surgical Pearls

Evaluation and Management of Scleral Lacerations

Chemical Injuries: When Minutes Matter

Orbital Compartment Syndrome: Rapid Diagnosis and Emergent Management

Eyelid Laceration Repairs: Essentials for the On-Call Ophthalmologist

Evaluation and Initial Management of Orbital Fractures On call

Webinar Link

2) OHIG Round Table Discussion

Thank you for attending our OHIG Round Table Discussion! We loved having a think tank of knowledgeable and thoughtful individuals to discuss a variety of consult-related topics.





A) OHIG Medical Society Transformation

We discussed various future options for OHIG including a more formal " medical consortium" vs "medical society". Existing models for comparison included the Global Ophthalmology Consortium (GOS) and the American Society of Ophthalmic Trauma (ASOT) and Society of Dermatology Hospitalists (SDH).

Overall, there was strong support for becoming a **"Society of Hospital Ophthalmology" or SHO**. Members of this group would encompass not only ophthalmic hospitalists but also other individuals who have a strong interest in hospital-based consultation. This could include ophthalmology residency

program directors, departmental chairs, medical directors, as well as community-based practices who cover call. As a professional medical society, there would be more formal leadership structuring including a board of directors. Future OHIG quarterly newsletters would become available only for members. Members would be charged an annual membership fee.

Jen and Donna have identified individuals who have tax and legal experience with other medical societies. They have also met with a consultant who is skilled in strategic and technical services to help develop the organization, support its members, and explore options for future industry support to help cover financial and administration costs. Companies that specialize in ED OCT, fundus cameras, portable slit lamps, virtual visual field goggles, etc could be reasonable targets for future sponsorship. Jen and Donna will continue to work with all these individuals as we move forward with this new and exciting process.

Becoming a formal medical society with non-profit status would also allow our group to apply for a full voting position on the AAO Council.

B) Mission and Policy Statements

We shared working drafts of various mission statement for OHIG vs SHO. A few members have since provided additional helpful feedback - thank you! We have decided to delay the release of our mission statement until our new society becomes more formally established. We will create a new dedicated SHO website.

We also discussed the idea of putting together a group white paper that would incorporate key aspects of our mission statement, identify critical areas of focus or need for hospital-based consultation, propose solutions, and identify ophthalmic hospitalists as a specific niche within ophthalmology.

A new formal society could also help lay the ground work for developing future evidence-based guidelines for hospital-based consultation including preferred practice patterns. These protocols could be disseminated widely via our new SHO website.

C) Annual Meetings

There was a lot of enthusiasm about having an annual dedicated meeting for OHIG. We could not agree more! We recently learned that the AAO can sponsor pre-meeting group gatherings at a hotel on a Thursday or Friday before the main annual meeting. Other groups including ASOT have taken advantage of this option. The majority at the Round Table discussion felt that scheduling an annual OHIG meeting with existing AAO annual meetings would help encourage attendance and reduce financial travel burdens.

We envision this annual meeting format to include symposiums or presentations focused on consult-relevant topics (get your thinking caps on!). This event could also provide a more intentional meeting space for our OHIG Round Table gatherings.

We have reached out to the AAO and will submit a formal application in the spring to be considered for a dedicated space in Las Vegas next year! Stay tuned.

D) Consult Research

Dr. Jamie Brandt shared that there are wonderful research grants for multi-center hospital-based research projects. This could help lay foundation for evidence-based protocols and consult management guidelines. We would love to see more research collaboration among multiple institutions!

Ideas for developing a future "Journal of Hospital Ophthalmology" were shared. This could be a wonderful spring board for publishing multidisciplinary consult cases and consult research - topics that can at times be a hard sell for other journals who are more drawn to outpatient areas.

E) AAO Council Advisory Recommendation (CAR) Update



If you recall from our prior OHIG spring newsletter, OHIG and ASOT submitted a joint **CAR 26-08** titled "**Expanding Resources for Ophthalmic Hospitalists**" which was was discussed at the AAO Mid Year Forum where 85-90% of the AAO council voted to give consult-relevant CAR's **high priority** and sent to the AAO Board of Trustees for further consideration.

The top 5 asks included:

1) Adding hospital and emergency ophthalmology for subject classification at the annual meetings (or additional tagging or search functionality).

2) Adding a hospital ophthalmology symposium at the annual meeting sponsored by OHIG

3) Provide ophthalmic hospitalists resources on the Academy website.

4) Develop recommendations for necessary ophthalmic resources, including equipment, medications etc

5) Develop standardized consult criteria and protocols.

Fast forward to the AAO Meeting in NOLA, where we received updates on CAR 26-08 which inspired the **AAO Call Confidence Initiative** with multiple resources including webinars, podcasts, articles and the On-Call Confidence Toolkit. The term "trauma" has also been added a topic classification for 2026. **OHIG has been added to the invitation list for symposia** submissions at future annual meetings.

Link To View full Council Meeting Minutes CAR 26-08 (pages 27-29)

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY®

Status Report for Council Advisory Recommendation 26-08

Title: Expand Resources for Ophthalmic Hospitalists

Report from: Bennie H. Jeng, MD – Secretary for Annual Meeting; Christopher J. Rapuano, MD – President, AAO

Analysis:

CAR 26-08, submitted by ASOT and co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology, addresses the need for expanded resources to support ophthalmic hospitalists. The Academy strongly supports this emerging field, and because ophthalmic hospitalists are central to in-patient and emergency consult coverage, CAR 26-08 is being addressed largely through the same 2026 presidential initiative and cross-divisional programming supporting CAR 26-10. President Christopher J. Rapuano, MD has elevated emergency ophthalmology coverage, including hospitalist-managed in-patient consults, to a major presidential initiative for 2026.

Rating: 1 = Currently being addressed by the following AAO activities

Report:

Call Confidence Initiative (Education Division)
In order to provide actionable resources for the ophthalmologist wanting to take call, the Academy has developed a multi-part "Call Confidence" competency series to directly support ophthalmologists managing emergency call coverage (NEW Since original CAR response in April 2026):

- Mid-Year Forum Hearing: Ophthalmology on Call in Crisis: Debunking the Myths. Covered liability myths, reimbursement and negotiation strategies, ophthalmology hospitalist models, teleophthalmology and AI, educational resources, and practical implementation strategies (April 2026)
- Strategies for Navigating Legal and Ethical Obligations first in a quarterly 2026 webinar series, developed with OMIC support (March 2026).
- Building a Team Approach to Safe, Effective Emergency Coverage, second webinar in the series, developed in collaboration with AAOE and AAOP (July 2026).
- The Practicing Ophthalmologist's Guide to Emergency Coverage- third in the series, a case-based webinar drawn from themes raised at AAO Council Regional Meetings (September 2026)
- Call Confidence Toolkit: negotiation checklist, on-call bag checklist, OR and ER equipment checklists, and clinical decision aids for chemical burns, open globe, and orbital compartment syndrome, and OMIC consent forms for common trauma conditions.
- Academy Experts Insight Podcast, The Hospital-Based Ophthalmologist and Focused Practice Designation.

Articles
The Academy has developed additional resources on this topic:

- On-Call, Under Pressure: Can Ophthalmology Stabilize Emergency Eye Care? (EyeNet, June 2026): feature on mitigating the ED coverage crisis through education and advocacy.

Rating: 0 = Recommend no action because... 1 = Currently being addressed by the following AAO activities... 2 = Cannot implement right now because... 3 = Implemented or will be implemented by...

- Make the Documentation Count: Slow Down and Capture the Work you do on Call (EyeNet, June 2026); a Savvy Coder article on tips and tricks for maximizing reimbursement while on call.

Annual Meeting Program Update —

Priority A – Hospital/Emergency Ophthalmology Topic Classification

- Trauma has been added as a topic classification for 2026. Attendees who complete the annual meeting evaluation will also have the opportunity to rank their interest in trauma-related education alongside the other core topics. The AMPC uses these evaluation results to help determine how many programming hours to allocate to each topic.
- Currently, only one topic can be assigned per course/session due to database limitations. However, the Academy is switching to a new database at the end of 2026, and the new platform should support multiple topic assignments. If testing is successful, this capability would launch in time for the 2027 meeting.

Priority B – Hospital Ophthalmology Symposium

- The Ophthalmic Hospitalist Interest Group (OHIG) will be added to the invitation list for symposia submissions for future annual meetings. Each year, the AMPC reviews all symposia applications and selects those it considers most relevant for that year, so submission does not guarantee selection.
- OHIG is also welcome to submit co-sponsored Instruction Courses. Because there are more Instruction Course slots than symposia slots, the odds of selection are higher. Instruction Courses are also typically held in smaller rooms, which tend to suit topics with smaller audiences better.

AAO 2026 Programming

The following sessions, many delivered by or directly relevant to ophthalmic hospitalists, are on the AAO 2026 program:

- Instruction Course: Navigating Hospital/ER On-Call Coverage: Horizons for Sustainability
- Instruction Course: Open-Globe Trauma: Surgical Management for the On-Call Ophthalmologist
- Skills Transfer Lab: Damage Control Ophthalmology: Ocular Trauma for the Ophthalmologist on Call
- Symposium: Mythbreakers in Ophthalmic Trauma
- Instruction Course: Ophthalmic Trauma Without a Rulebook: Global Cases, Shared Decisions — A Joint ASOT-ISOT-APOTS Instruction Course
- Instruction Course (On Demand) Ocular Trauma Essentials: From ER to OR
- Instruction Course: Managing Common Corneal Emergencies in Day-to-Day Practice: A to Z
- Instruction Course: Emergency Neuro-Ophthalmology: Diagnosis and Management
- Instruction Course: Retinal Urgencies and Emergencies for the Comprehensive Ophthalmologist
- Poster Panel Discussion: Ocular Trauma in Focus
- Poster Panel Discussion: Critical Eye Care
- Symposium: Seeing Red: Critical Diagnoses You Can't Miss

Website and Resource Centralization

The Academy supports improving resource centralization and discoverability for ophthalmic hospitalists. The OHIG Mobilize community forum remains active, with membership stable at approximately 140. Options under consideration include a dedicated landing page aggregating existing resources, enhancing the OHIG Mobilize resource page with direct links to key Academy materials, and improved tagging/search functionality across platforms.

Cross-CAR and Collaborative Initiatives

- **Subspecialty Society Collaboration:** The Ophthalmic Society and Global Relations (OSGR) group can facilitate conversations with subspecialty societies about including hospital/emergency ophthalmology topics at their meetings.
- **Cross-Promotion with Hospital and Emergency Medicine Organizations:** The Academy sees value in exploring cross-promotion with the Society of Hospital Medicine and the American College of Emergency Physicians, including reciprocal educational sessions on basic vision examination and appropriate ophthalmology consultation.

Moving Forward

The Academy remains committed to:

- Evaluating annual meeting programming options, including tagging enhancements and a possible dedicated Hospital Ophthalmology Symposium
- Continuing to expand the Call Confidence webinar series and related programming in collaboration with OHIG.
- Enhancing resource centralization on Academy digital platforms with OHIG input.
- Supporting equipment and protocol recommendations through appropriate clinical governance.
- Facilitating AUPO collaboration on hospitalist fellowships.
- Facilitating ABO dialogue on examination content.
- Exploring cross-promotion with hospital medicine and emergency medicine organizations.
- Integrating hospitalist perspectives into broader emergency ophthalmology initiatives, in alignment with CAR 26-10.



Thank you for all your OHIG support!
We hope to see you at the next AAO Meeting in Las Vegas 2027!

- Jen and Donna