

# THE BEACON

March 2017

Monterey  
Bay  
Optometric  
Society



## President's Report by Jen Buell, O.D.

The 2017 House of Delegates was held in San Francisco this year. Dr. Bob Theaker, Dr. Scott Daly, Dr. Trevor Fogg and I had the pleasure of driving up to the city during one of the worst storms that we have had in a while. I am happy to report that we all made it there and back in one piece. The meeting was full of titillating topics but here are few highlights:

☒ Dr. Bob Theaker was elected as the COA Doctor of the Year!! Congratulations, Bob! The photo collage was impressive and your accomplishments even more so. Your dedication to the profession is inspiring and MBOS is proud that you are “ours”.

☒ Disruptive/Destructive Technology: A great discussion was had regarding online refractions and how they are seen by patients (as exams!). Dr. Scott Daly made a great point by suggesting we refer to this as “Destructive Technology” rather than “Disruptive Technology” since it really does have the potential to be harmful to our patients, not just our profession. When talking to legislators about this we do not want them to think we are just being defensive and protective of what we do, rather we truly fear that this sort of technology will be harmful (and at times life-threatening) to people. If anyone has experiences where they diagnosed a patient, who was

# President's Report continued

other wise asymptomatic, with a visual or life-threatening condition, PLEASE write to COA. These accounts are critical to our legislative efforts.

☒ For 2017, COA wanted to try something different for the annual Legislative Day. Instead of it being held in Sacramento, COA will bring the action to its members by hosting several advocacy meetings throughout California (such as several in Northern CA, one in Central and a few throughout Southern CA). The hope is that these events will allow more members and students to attend while providing more one-on-one time with our legislators.

o This created quite the uproar at HOD. Apparently Legislative Day in Sacramento is more valued than COA realized. The plan is to TRY it this year and see how it goes. The plan is to return to traditional Leg Day in 2018.

☒ COA Legislative Priorities for 2017 include:

o Scope of Practice – legislation will be reintroduced in attempt to reduce the prescriptiveness of the current law, which is becoming a problem for doctors and their patients. The bill language with exact details can be found online and the first committee hearing will be before April 28, 2017

o Children's Vision—legislation will be reintroduced. It seems like this year we have a bit more support so let's hope it gains even more traction and passes this year. If you have a personal story of diagnosing a child with any eye or vision problem, who was missed in the

school screening process, contact Kara Corches. o Medi-Cal—increased reimbursement rates and expansion of optometric benefits are part of this one. At the request of VSP, Assembly Member Ken Cooley has introduced AB 1092, a bill that would restore the “one pair of eyeglasses to an individual 21 years of age or older”.

While these goals for 2017 seem familiar they are all incredibly important for moving our profession forward. Let's continue to submit personal experiences to better build our evidence based cases (COA needs these!) and remember to educate your patients, every time, about what we are really doing during that comprehensive exam.

Yours truly,  
Jen Buell, O.D.



**MONTEREY BAY OPTOMETRIC  
SOCIETY**

**Tuesday, March 21, 2017**

**Cocktails: 6:30 pm**

**Dinner & Lecture: 7:00 pm**

**Speaker: Dr. Michael Furlong, M.D.**

**Topic: Lasik, PRK, ICLs & RLEs  
What to Consider for My Patient**

**Sponsor: CSC**

**Complimentary dinner & CE for  
MBOS member doctors**

**Non Member Doctors Welcomed  
\$75 for dinner and CE**



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Dr. Bahar Bakhtary is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. She received her B.S. in Biology from UCLA. She then continued to study at Nova Southeastern University in Florida, where she received a B.S. in Vision Science as well as her doctorate in Optometry. During her time in Optometry school she received the Dean's List award for her scholastic achievements and clinical honors. Bahar served as the managing optometrist at Eye Exam of California in Monterey before joining Vantage Eye Center in 2016. Bahar is an active member of the Monterey Bay Optometric Society. She currently serves as Co-Chair of Education along with fellow Vantage Eye Center Optometrist; Dr. Sarah Morris.



Meet one of our newest  
MBOS Board Members!  
**BAHAR BAKHTARY, O.D.**

In her spare time Bahar enjoys traveling to new destinations, hiking, and dining out with friends. Her favorite past travel destinations include Greece, Brazil, Finland and most recently Iceland.

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