

OCULAR MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY GROUP

Irmgard Behlau, MD
Executive Vice-President

May 2026

Bhupesh Bagga, DOMS,
FRCS
Past-President

Dear Colleague:

Rachel Wozniak, MD, PhD
President

The 60th Annual Meeting of the Ocular Microbiology and Immunology Group is scheduled to be held at the **Astor Crown Plaza French Quarter**, 739 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA, in the St. Charles Ballroom, on **Friday, October 9, 2026, from 7:30 am until 12:00 pm**, with registration at 6:45 am. The business luncheon meeting will follow at approximately 12:30 pm. The Federated Scientific Session (Cornea Society and EBAA) will also take place on Friday, October 9, 2026, at the **Astor Crown Plaza French Quarter**. OMIG also plans to record the meeting for future viewing.

Miel Sundararajan, MD
President-elect

Gerami Seitzman, MD
Secretary

Irene C. Kuo, MD
AAO Council Rep

Elisabeth Cohen, MD, Clinical Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, will present the 31st Thygeson Lecture, "**Takeaway Lessons from the Zoster Eye Disease Study.**" **Hady Yazbeck, MD**, 2025 Harry Hirsch Leiter Award Recipient, will give an encore presentation of his winning paper, "*External Validation of a Multi-Regionally Trained Deep Learning Model for Trachomatous Inflammation – Follicular Detection,*" to acknowledge the generous \$500.00 honorarium for the Hirsch Leiter recipient of best paper, which is open to all presenters.

Meeting Dues/Registration and Business Luncheon

Enclosed please find an invoice for OMIG membership dues. Please update and return the invoice to confirm your continued membership. As in prior years, badges and luncheon tickets will be available at the registration table. To make payment of dues more convenient, we are pleased to announce that the option of paying online will be available again this year at <http://eyemicrobiology.upmc.com/OMIG.htm>, a site made possible by the Charles T. Campbell Laboratory, or email us for information at ocularmicrobiology@gmail.com.

Annual dues, which include meeting registration, will remain the same at \$95.00. A reduced membership rate of \$75 will be available for residents, fellows, or students. Held immediately following the annual meeting, the business luncheon cost will remain \$35.00 in addition to your dues. For those who register onsite at the meeting, dues will be \$110 and the cost to attend the business luncheon will be \$50. In addition, senior or supervising members are strongly encouraged to consider a minimal donation (\$20) to help offset the cost of membership for young members. We ask that you consider sending nominations for Board members to ocularmicrobiology@gmail.com, in preparation for the elections held during the OMIG lunch and business meeting.

Abstract Submission

For those interested in presenting, abstracts must be submitted by **July 17, 2026**, to ocularmicrobiology@gmail.com, in order to be considered for the meeting. Electronic version of the abstract is available on <http://eyemicrobiology.upmc.com/OMIG.htm>.

Guidelines:

- The first author or sponsor must be a member in good standing and presenter must register for the meeting upon acceptance.
- The author listed first is considered by OMIG to be the Presenter, and we will follow AAO guidelines for authorship.
- All authors and/or sponsors can only be First Author/Presenter ONCE during a meeting. Please do not divide a body of work between multiple different first authors/presenters.

All papers will be 5 minutes in length with 2 minutes for discussion. Acceptance or rejection notices will be e-mailed in mid/late August to the e-mail address that accompanies your abstract.

PowerPoint presentations are required via email at least 10 days before the meeting date. The agenda and abstracts for recent meetings are available on the web site, as is all correspondence concerning the 2026 annual meeting. The agenda and abstracts for the papers to be presented at the 2026 meeting will be on the web site within four weeks of the meeting date.

Ocular microbiology and immunology is the core mission of OMIG. The Board requests that authors and presenters try to stress infectious agents, immunity, and inflammation as a response to foreign agents whether infectious or autoimmune responses with their submissions. In addition, the Board also requests that authors and presenters try to stress new data and statistical analysis in their submissions whenever possible.

Commercial Relationships Policy

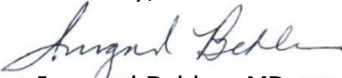
The Board of OMIG has instituted a commercial relationships policy for authors and presenters. This policy is derived directly from the AAO policy for abstract submission to its annual meeting. The policy is enclosed and you are asked to provide a disclosure code at the bottom of the abstract box. The disclosure code is necessary for your abstract to be considered.

Cornea Society/EBAA Meeting

If you wish to register for or submit an abstract to the Federated Scientific Session meeting (Cornea Society and EBAA), please check their web sites at <http://www.corneasociety.org> and www.restoresight.org. Scientific papers may be submitted for presentation at either the OMIG or Federated Cornea Society meetings to be held October 9th. **However, the same paper may only be presented at one of these Friday meetings.**

Thank you for your continued support and membership. We look forward to seeing you at the 60th Annual Meeting this October. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,


Irmgard Behlau, MD

Enclosures:

Registration/Membership Card
Abstract Form
Commercial Relationships Policy