

OCULAR MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY GROUP

Irmgard Behlau, MD
Executive Vice-President

June 2021

Savitri Sharma, MD
Past-President

Guillermo Amescua, MD
President

Dear Colleague:

Robert M.Q. Shanks, PhD
President-Elect

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Ocular Microbiology and Immunology Group is scheduled to be held at the **Astor Crowne Plaza - French Quarter**, 739 Canal Street at Bourbon, New Orleans, Louisiana, in the **St. Charles Ballroom, Friday, November 12, 2021, from 7:30 am until 12:30 pm**, with registration at 6:45 am. The business luncheon meeting will follow in the **Bourbon Room**. The Federated Scientific Session (Cornea Society and EBAA) will also take place on Friday, November 12, 2021 at Astor Crowne Plaza. OMIG also plans to live broadcast the meeting and it will be recorded for all members.

Irene C. Kuo, MD
Secretary

Cecilia Lee, MD
AAO Council Rep

Michelle C. Callegan, PhD, FARVO, Director of Vision Research, Dean A. McGee Eye Institute, Dean A. McGee Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, George Lynn Cross Research Professor, and Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, will present the 26th Thygeson Lecture, "*Targeting Innate Immune Pathways in Bacterial Endophthalmitis*." Ethan Adre, 2020 Harry Hirsch Leiter Award Recipient, will give an encore presentation of his winning paper, "*The Efficacy of Riboflavin Versus Rose Bengal Photodynamic Antimicrobial Therapy on South Florida Nocardia Keratitis Isolates*," to acknowledge the generous \$500.00 honorarium for the Hirsch Leiter recipient of best paper, which is open to all presenters. This year's program will include a mini-symposium titled "Emerging Eye Infections".

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. The business luncheon will be held immediately following the annual meeting and the cost to attend 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.

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Abstract Submission

For those interested in presenting, abstracts must be submitted by **Friday, September 10, 2021**, 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 papers will be 5 minutes in length with 2 minutes for discussion. Acceptance or rejection notices will be e-mailed in late September to the e-mail address that accompanies your abstract.

PowerPoint and video 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 and guidelines concerning the 2021 annual meeting. The agenda and abstracts for the papers to be presented at the 2021 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. Neoplasia is not considered part of the core mission at this time. 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

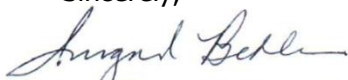
The Board of OMIG has instituted a commercial relationships policy for authors and presenters. This policy is derived directly from the AAO policy for abstract submission to its annual meeting. The policy is enclosed and you are asked to provide a disclosure code at the bottom of the abstract box. The disclosure code is necessary for **each author** listed in your abstract to be considered. This information is critical as we will attempt to apply for Continuing Medical Education credits again this year.

Cornea Society/EBA Meeting

If you wish to register for or submit an abstract to the Federated Scientific Session meeting (Cornea Society and EBA), 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 November 12. **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 55th Annual Meeting this November. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,



Irmgard Behlau, MD

Enclosures:

- Registration/Membership Card
- Abstract Form
- Commercial Relationships Policy