



OREGON OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

RELEASE: January 27, 2021

CONTACT: Geoff Knapp (971) 282-3292; geoff@oregonoptometry.org

Oregon Optometrists Appointed to National Committees

Dr. Ashley McFerron and Dr. Nathan Roland joining American Optometric Association committees

Milwaukie, OR – Two members of Oregon Optometric Physicians Association ([OOPA](#)) have been named to separate American Optometric Association ([AOA](#)) committees.



Dr. Ashley McFerron, O.D., has been named to AOA's Industry Relations Committee (IRC). The committee builds and maintains relationships with businesses that support the optometric industry.

Dr. McFerron is a member of the AOA, Portland Metropolitan Optometric Society (PMOS), and OOPA. She is also a past President of OOPA. In 2013, Dr. McFerron was named "Oregon Young Optometrist of the Year".

Dr. McFerron received her Bachelor of Science from The University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2003. Her Doctorate of Optometry was received in 2008 at the Oklahoma College of Optometry at Northeastern State University. In July 2008, Dr. McFerron moved from Oklahoma to Oregon where she practiced in Woodburn for 3 years. In October 2011, she purchased Canby Eyecare from Dr. Don Chase who owned the practice for 37 years.

"Dr. McFerron is a great fit for this committee," said Jerry Neidigh, O.D., chair of the IRC. "Her experience in private practice, respect from peers and commitment to AOA's mission, places her in a great position to lend tremendous contributions to our efforts."

Among her many accomplishments, Dr. McFerron founded the Bedlam Optometry Clinic in Tulsa, OK. The clinic, staffed by medical students who provide free care for the uninsured, is supported by the Bedlam Clinic Foundation. Clinics are now located in 16 different sites. The foundation is funded by a multi-million-dollar endowment and is the largest healthcare provider for the uninsured in the city of Tulsa.

"Ashley's legacies continue to build and her continuing contributions to OOPA are monumental," said Dr. Nicole Rush, President, Board of Directors.

Dr. Nate Roland, O.D., has been named to AOA's Leadership Development Committee. The committee ensures that AOA is proactive in the recruitment and training of volunteers and promotes membership engagement in a way that: Reflects the demographics of the profession, represents a broad array of modes of practice, establishes connections between similar efforts at both state and national levels, maintains a balance of experienced subject matter experts while being inclusive of new members.



Serving as an optometric physician for Eye Impressions in Sherwood, OR, Dr. Roland is President-Elect for OOPA, member of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, member of Oregon Department of Education's Vision Screening Advisory Group and served in pivotal positions in the New Mexico Optometric Association serving as President and was instrumental in the successful passage of legislation expanding the scope of Optometry.

Dr. Roland was selected from the AOA volunteer pool during the appointment process last fall, recommended by Dr. Curtis Ono, AOA Board of Trustees and appointed by AOA's president and president-elect.

"We are extremely excited that Dr. Roland has joined our AOA Leadership Development Committee," said Andrea P. Thau, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD, FNAP, committee chair and past president, AOA. "His energy and history of leadership roles will serve as a tremendous addition to this diverse committee."

A Diplomate of American Board of Optometry, Dr. Roland is also a member of the American Heart Association's Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers group. As the nation's oldest and largest voluntary health organization, BLS' purpose is to help Americans live heart healthy lives and prevent America's No. 1 and No. 5 killers, heart disease and stroke.

"Dr. Roland will be a great asset to the work of the committee because he exemplifies the qualities of a great leader," said Curtis A. Ono, O.D., AOA Board of Trustees. "Dr. Roland will provide a guiding hand in helping our members develop into future leaders of Optometry."

Dr. Roland will assume the role of OOPA board president in July 2021 succeeding Dr. Nicole Rush.

"Nate will serve as a tremendous president and has already demonstrated his leadership skills on multiple state and national levels, " said Dr. Rush. "I have all the confidence in the world that he will lift the association to even greater heights."

#####