

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
THE 2020 WILLIAM C. EZELL FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS**

ORLANDO, FL (May 28, 2020) - The American Academy of Optometry Foundation announces the eleven recipients of the 2020 William C. Ezell Fellowships. The Ezell Fellowship program is named after the founding President of the AAOF, William C. Ezell, OD. It was established to provide recognition and support to talented post-doctoral students who are pursuing an advanced degree in optometric research and education. To date, over 430 William C. Ezell Fellowships have been awarded since the inception of the program in 1949.

Funding for these Fellowships is provided by leading optometric companies, private endowments, and other generous business organizations that represent most sectors of the industry.

The AAOF congratulates the following recipients who have been selected as the 2020 - 2021 Ezell Fellows:

AAO Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses, and Refractive Technologies (CCLRT) Ezell Fellowship

Erin Tomiyama, OD, MS, FAAO
University of Houston College of Optometry

American Academy of Optometry (AAO) Ezell Fellowship

Eugene Appenteng Osae, OD
University of Houston College of Optometry

Danne Ventura / Essilor Ezell Fellowship

Reynolds Kwame Ablordeppey, OD
State University of New York College of Optometry

Facebook Ezell Fellowship

Lyndsey Ferris, OD, FAAO
Indiana University School of Optometry

Irvin M. Borish / Essilor Ezell Fellowship

Young Hyun Kim
University of California Berkeley School of Optometry

John N. Schoen Ezell Fellowship

Justin Courson
University of Houston College of Optometry

Merton C. Flom Leadership Ezell Fellowship

Kelsy Steele, OD, MS, FAAO
The Ohio State University College of Optometry

Mike Daley / Essilor Ezell Fellowship

Kwaku Osei, OD, FAAO
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry

Michael G. Harris Ezell Fellowship

Afua Oteng Asare, OD, MPH, MSc
University of Toronto

Optometric Glaucoma Society (OGS) Ezell Fellowship

Billie Beckwith-Cohen, DVM, MBA, FAAO
University of California Berkeley School of Optometry

Rod Tahrán / Essilor Ezell Fellowship

Rabia Mobeen, BOptom, MPhil
University of New South Wales

This year's Ezell Fellows will be honored at the AAOF's Annual Celebration Luncheon on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at Academy 2020 in Nashville, TN.

About the American Academy of Optometry

The American Academy of Optometry (AAO) inspires excellence in optometric practice by fostering research and disseminating knowledge in vision science through its journal, *Optometry and Vision Science*, and the continuing education presented at its annual meeting. Fellows of the Academy are committed to the premise that learning is a lifelong obligation of a professional, as is the commitment to expand the profession's knowledge base through ongoing fellowship and exchange. For more information, visit the website: <http://www.aaopt.org>.

About the American Academy of Optometry Foundation

The American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF) is the 501(c)(3) philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) and was founded in 1947 for the "upholding, broadening, fostering, promoting and aiding of optometric education; the profession of optometry and its practitioners." The organization provides financial support for optometric research and vision and eye health education to improve patient clinical care. For more information, visit the website: <https://www.aaopt.org/home/aaof>.

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