

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
2020-2021 THE ALLERGAN FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS**

ORLANDO, FL (October 1, 2020) – The American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF), in partnership with the Allergan Foundation, is pleased to announce two grant recipients this year in the areas of the anterior segment and glaucoma.



The recipient of the Allergan Foundation Grant in the area of the anterior segment is Suzanne MJ Fleiszig, OD, PhD, FAAO. Dr. Fleiszig is a Professor of Optometry and Vision Science, Microbiology, and Infectious Disease & Immunity at the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry.

As the principal investigator, Dr. Fleiszig has been awarded a \$60,000 grant for her project, "Relationship between COVID-19 and the Eye."

Her collaborative team of co-investigators include Eva Harris, PhD; University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health and Abby Kroken, PhD; University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry



The recipient of the Allergan Foundation Grant in the area of glaucoma is Stacey S. Choi, PhD, FAAO. Dr. Choi is an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University (OSU), College of Optometry and Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Science, Havener Eye Institute.

As the principal investigator, Dr. Choi has been awarded a \$60,000 grant for her project, "Characterization of inner retinal changes in glaucoma suspects in comparison to glaucoma patients and age-matched controls through adaptive optics retinal imaging."

Her collaborative team of co-investigators include Nathan Doble, PhD (College of Optometry and Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Science, Havener Eye Institute, OSU.), Mark Slabaugh, MD, and Shelly Jain, MD (both from Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Science, Havener Eye Institute, OSU).

These highly competitive grants are awarded to talented optometrists and/or vision scientists, who are Academy Fellows, and are currently undertaking cutting edge research in the areas of glaucoma and/or the anterior segment. This is the seventh year the Allergan Foundation has sponsored this generous grant through the AAOF.

The American Academy of Optometry Foundation is pleased to partner with the Allergan Foundation to recognize individuals whose work will contribute to the future of optometric care. "We congratulate Drs. Fleiszig and Choi and their expert clinician-scientist teams on their grants. Their cutting-edge research will directly improve the care we are able to provide for our patients," said AAOF President Pete Kollbaum, OD, PhD, FAAO.

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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