

# Indian Health Service

Biennial Eye Care Meeting | June 6 - 9



Marshall B.  
KETCHUM UNIVERSITY

Southern California College of Optometry  
Department of Continuing Education

## Instructor Biographies

### **Kimberly Gokoffski, MD, PhD**

Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USC | Keck School of Medicine

Dr. Kimberly Gokoffski is a board certified Neuro-Ophthalmologist who specializes in diseases of the optic nerve and eye movement disorders. In addition to her clinical practice, she performs strabismus surgery, optic nerve sheath fenestrations, and directs a research group. Her research interests are focused on the clinical need for optic nerve regeneration. Optic neuropathies are diseases in which the optic nerve – the cable that transmits information from the eye to the brain – is damaged. Advanced optic neuropathies, like glaucoma, result in irreversible vision loss because the cells that make up the optic nerve are not capable of self-renewal. Restoration of vision in these patients requires optic nerve regeneration. The current rate-limiting step to optic nerve regeneration is directing stem cells that have been implanted in the eye to grow an axon out of the eye to the brain – a distance that spans 5cm in humans. The goal of her research is 1.) to elucidate the molecular signals that guide axon growth and 2.) to test whether an applied electrical field can be used to direct the growth of implanted stem cells. The results from this project will be developed into a technology to facilitate optic nerve regeneration and restore vision in patients blinded by optic neuropathies.

### **Raman Bhakhri, OD, FAAO**

Associate Professor of Optometry, ICO | Illinois College of Optometry

Dr. Raman Bhakhri is an associate professor at ICO. He currently teaches the ocular pharmacology course. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and received his Doctor of Optometry degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. Dr. Bhakhri completed a post-graduate residency at the Illinois College of Optometry/Chicago Lighthouse in low vision and ocular disease. He then taught for seven years at the Southern California College of Optometry where he was responsible for the low vision and retina courses. He is currently a member of the Illinois Optometric Society, American Optometric Association, and the Optometric Retina Society. Dr. Bhakhri is also a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and currently serves as the vice chair of their Faculty-Student liaison committee. Dr. Bhakhri lectures frequently at the local, state, and national level on ocular disease, low vision rehabilitation, and ocular pharmacology.

### **Emily Stephey, OD**

Assistant Professor, MBKU | SCCO

Dr. Emily Stephey graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology. She graduated summa cum laude with her Doctor of Optometry degree from the Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO) at Marshall B. Ketchum University in 2017. She then completed a residency in Primary Care and Ocular Disease at HuHuKam Memorial Hospital in Sacaton, AZ. After residency and before joining MBKU, Dr. Stephey worked for a retinal specialist in Torrance, CA. In 2020, she joined SCCO as full-time faculty with clinical and laboratory teaching responsibilities in the Primary Eye Care and Ocular Disease service. She is a member of the American Optometric Association and California Optometric Association.

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### **Judy Tong, OD**

Assistant Dean of Residencies

Associate Professor, MBKU | SCCO

Dr. Judy Tong is an Associate Professor of Optometry and Assistant Dean of Residencies at the Southern California College of Optometry of the Marshall B. Ketchum University. She received her BS degree in Genetics from the University of California, Berkeley and her OD degree from the Southern California College of Optometry. She completed a one-year residency in Primary Care Optometry at the Eye Institute of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (Salus University). As the Assistant Dean of Residencies since November 2003, Dr. Tong serves to provide global administrative and educational direction to 24 residency programs across 6 different states. Her main academic responsibility is teaching anterior segment diseases, basic and advanced procedures including lasers, injection, and suturing. Dr. Tong is one of the core instructors of the glaucoma certification courses and grand rounds program in California. Dr. Tong's research activities include being the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator on two phase III antibiotic drug trials and major allergy study.

### **Rachelle Lin, OD, MS**

Assistant Professor, MBKU | SCCO

Dr. Rachelle Lin is a full-time Assistant Professor at the Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO) at Marshall B. Ketchum University (MBKU). She treats patients in the clinical departments of Low Vision Rehabilitation and Acquired Brain Injury at the University Eye Center at Ketchum Health in Anaheim, CA. She also conducts genetic testing for inherited eye conditions. At MBKU, she teaches low vision rehabilitation, genetics, clinical methods, and nutrition. She has lectured internationally, with special interest in traumatic brain injury, vision rehabilitation, genetic testing, and gene therapy. Dr. Lin is an active member of the American Optometric Association and the California Optometric Association (COA), where she currently serves as COA Trustee. She has served as Chair of the COA Low Vision Rehabilitation Section and as President of the Orange County Optometric Society. She is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. Dr. Lin received her Doctor of Optometry and Master of Science in Vision Science degrees from SCCO. She completed her post-graduate residency at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System in low vision, traumatic brain injury, and primary care. She was named 2019 COA Young Optometrist of the Year.

### **Xiao Xi Yu, OD**

Chief, Low Vision, Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System

Dr. Xiao (Shawn) X. Yu is a graduate of Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. He completed his residency training in 2011 at State University of New York College of Optometry and the Lighthouse International in the field of Low Vision Rehabilitation. He has served as an assistant professor at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry for nearly 3 years and since joined the optometric staff at the West LA and Sepulveda VA. He is currently serving as the Chief of Low Vision at the greater Los Angeles VA system and continuing to pursue his academic interest in low vision rehabilitation, ophthalmic disease, and traumatic brain injury.

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### **Lisa Wahl, OD**

Assistant Professor, MBKU | SCCO  
Clinic Co-Director, UECLA, MBKU | SCCO

Dr. Lisa Wahl is an optometrist practicing in Los Angeles, California and is an assistant professor at Marshall B. Ketchum University. She is the coordinator of Cornea and Contact Lens Services at University Eye Center Los Angeles and works predominately in clinical care with fourth-year optometry interns. Dr. Wahl graduated from UCLA with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in English Literature. She received her doctorate at Southern California College of Optometry, graduating Summa Cum Laude, and completed residency training in ocular disease at VA Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center. Thereafter, she worked a prominent ophthalmology practice in Los Angeles, providing pre and postoperative care for patients undergoing refractive, cataract and corneal surgery. Her areas of interest are medically necessary contact lenses, dry eye and ocular pathology. She is an investigator in several research studies at Marshall B. Ketchum University and frequently lectures at continuing education seminars. In her free time, she enjoys lifting weights, traveling and exploring the local restaurant scene.

### **George Comer, OD, MBA**

Associate Professor, MBKU | SCCO

Dr. George Comer is a 1981 graduate of the University of Houston College of Optometry. He completed a residency in hospital-based optometry at the VA Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky and the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Kentucky School of Medicine. He is also a graduate of the University of California, Irvine Graduate School of Management with an MBA in health care management. Dr. Comer is currently Associate Professor at the Southern California College of Optometry. He is immediate past Chair of the Disease Section of the Academy and is the Chair of the Disease Section Diplomate Program. He has lectured extensively on glaucoma diagnosis and management and has a special interest in use of technology in this area such as new forms of perimetry and new optic nerve head and nerve fiber layer imaging.

### **Robert Yacoub, OD**

Assistant Professor, MBKU | SCCO

Dr. Robert Yacoub, a native of Southern California, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles in 2002. In 2006, he received his Doctor of Optometry degree from the Southern California College of Optometry. He then completed a residency in Primary Care/Geriatric Optometry at the VA Sepulveda Medical Center. In 2007, Dr. Yacoub joined the Southern California College of Optometry as a full-time faculty member with clinical teaching responsibilities in the Primary Care/Ocular Disease Services. He also teaches in ocular disease, ocular health procedures, clinical medicine, and case analysis laboratories and courses.

### **Kristina Voss, MD**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, USC | Keck School of Medicine

Dr. Kristina Voss is an assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology at USC Department of Ophthalmology. She specializes in the medical and surgical management of diseases of the anterior segment, particularly cornea and cataract. She performs cataract surgery with advanced technology, including astigmatism-correcting, and multifocal intraocular lenses. She performs full thickness and lamellar corneal transplantation. She cares for patients with keratoconus and performs corneal collagen crosslinking. Her practice also includes refractive surgery as she offers LASIK and PRK.

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### **Azita Alipour, PharmD**

Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice, MBKU | COP

Dr. Azita Alipour is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Marshall B. Ketchum University College of Pharmacy. Dr. Alipour is a board-certified psychiatric and geriatric pharmacist. Her academic and professional degrees consist of a BS in Psychology and Doctor of Pharmacy. Dr. Alipour completed a post-graduate year one (PGY1) pharmacy residency at the Boise VA Medical Center and a post-graduate year two (PGY2) pharmacy residency in psychiatric pharmacy at University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Dr. Alipour's commitment to excellence in patient care is exemplified throughout her nearly decade of clinical pharmacy experience. She started the first pharmacist run psychiatric clinic at the Boise VA. As the Psychiatric Clinical Pharmacist for Kaiser of the Mid-Atlantic States, she received a service excellence award, three customer service awards and a pharmacy MVP award. Prior to joining MBKU, Dr. Alipour was Psychiatric Pharmacy faculty at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Dr. Alipour has served in various leadership positions at the national level. She served on the mental health workgroup for Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA). For the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) she was a co-leader for the Geriatric Psychopharmacotherapy Community and Chair of the Hub and Perspectives Newsletter Subcommittee. Currently she is Vice Chair of the Student Committee and Co-leader of the Substance Use Disorder Strategies (SUDS) Community for CPNP.

### **Jessica Yuen, OD**

Assistant Professor, MBKU | SCCO

Dr. Jessica Yuen graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Health and minor in Molecular Toxicology. She later returned to Berkeley to complete her Doctorate of Optometry. After receiving her OD degree, she completed a residency in Primary Care/Ocular Disease at the San Francisco VA Medical Center where she worked closely with UCSF ophthalmology in various sub-specialties including oculoplastics, cornea, glaucoma, and retina. In 2020, she joined the Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University as a full-time faculty with clinical and laboratory teaching responsibilities in the Primary Eye Care and Ocular Disease service. Dr. Yuen is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and member of the American Optometric Association and California Optometric Association.

### **Melissa Tawa, OD**

Assistant Professor, MBKU | SCCO

Dr. Melissa Tawa graduated with honors from UC Berkeley School of Optometry in 2018. She completed her residency at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center, focusing on low vision and specialty contact lens patients with a high prevalence of ocular and systemic disease. Dr. Tawa joins SCCO with more than 4 years of diverse experience in glaucoma, cataracts, dry eye disease, low vision, and specialty contact lenses.

### **Sophia Ries, OD**

IHS Resident, Santa Fe Indian Health Center

Dr. Sophia Ries is currently completing a residency in Ocular Disease and Primary Care Optometry at the Santa Fe Indian Health Center. She graduated from Pacific University College of Optometry in 2021 and received her Bachelor of Arts from Augustana College. Originally from Portland, Oregon, she enjoys the many sunny days in New Mexico and the opportunities they offer for running, hiking, or having brunch on a patio.

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### **Krystal Nelson, OD**

IHS Resident, Gallup Indian Medical Center

Gallup Indian Medical Center is pleased to introduce Dr. Krystal Nelson as one of its 2021-2022 optometry residents. Krystal grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation of southwestern South Dakota. Krystal first became interested in optometry when she tried to mangle her way into her first pair of glasses— little did she know she was already a mild myope in the making. Krystal completed her undergraduate education at Black Hills State University in South Dakota where she majored in biology. She continued her education at Pacific University College Optometry where she pursued a doctorate of optometry degree. Born and raised on a reservation, Krystal is passionate about serving Native American communities and plans to pursue a career in Indian Health Services. In her free time she enjoys exploring national parks and frequenting local coffee shops.

### **Emma Stewart-Bates, OD**

IHS Resident, Gallup Indian Medical Center

Dr. Emma Stewart-Bates is completing her residency at Gallup Indian Medical Center in Gallup, New Mexico. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, she studied Classics and swam at Kenyon College. She went on to complete the combined OD/MS program at The Ohio State University College of Optometry. In her free time she enjoys entertaining her dog Cleo, going on trips with her co-resident Krystal, and visiting her five siblings.

### **Patricia McCullough,, OD**

IHS Resident, Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation,

Dr. Patricia McCullough is currently completing a residency in primary care and ocular disease management at Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation in Tuba City, Arizona. She graduated from Marshall B. Ketchum University in 2021 and received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Northern Arizona University.

### **Meagan Abanto, OD**

IHS Resident, Zuni Comprehensive Community Health Center

Dr. Meagan Abanto is currently completing a residency in ocular disease and primary care at Zuni Comprehensive Community Health Center in Zuni, NM. She graduated from the New England College of Optometry in 2021 and received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

### **Fawad Zadrán, OD**

IHS Resident, Crownpoint Healthcare Facility

Dr. Fawad Zadrán received his Bachelor of Science from University of California, Santa Barbara and his Doctor of Optometry Degree from Southern California college of Optometry. Following graduation, Dr. Zadrán pursued a Residency in Primary Care with an emphasis of Ocular Disease at Crownpoint Healthcare Facility. Following Residency, Dr. Zadrán is pursuing a career at an Indian health hospital or a career in a community-based clinic.

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### **Kayvan Moussavi, PharmD**

Assistant Professor, MBKU | COP

Dr. Kayvan Moussavi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Marshall B. Ketchum University (MBKU) College of Pharmacy. He joined MBKU in 2018. Dr. Moussavi is a board-certified critical care pharmacist. He obtained his BS from UC San Diego in 2007 and his Doctor of Pharmacy from Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UC San Diego in 2011. Dr. Moussavi completed his PGY1 acute care residency at UC San Diego Health and his PGY2 in critical care at Loma Linda University. Dr. Moussavi practiced as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Emergency Department (ED) at Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) and Assistant Professor at the LLU School of Pharmacy for five years. His responsibilities included providing drug information to ED and hospital staff, participating in management of medical emergencies, identifying and completing quality improvement projects, and teaching pharmacy students and residents. Dr. Moussavi currently coordinates the neurology/toxicology pharmacotherapeutics course at MBKU and serves on the Assessment and Experiential Education Committees. His practice site will be in emergency medicine at a local Orange County Medical Center. He is a member of the ASHP, CSHP, and SCCM. Dr. Moussavi serves on the SCCM Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology Journal Club Committee and manages the social media component of that committee. Dr. Moussavi has numerous research interests pertaining to emergency medicine, critical care, and education. He has presented and published abstracts, review articles, and manuscripts on a variety of topics including ED pharmacist impact on clinical services, hyperkalemia management, ketamine use in critically ill patients, and medication safety. He is also a guest reviewer for the Journal of Pharmacy Practice, Journal of Critical Care, and SCCM Congress.

### **Herman Johannesmeyer, PharmD**

Assistant Professor, MBKU | COP

Dr. Herman Johannesmeyer is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Marshall B. Ketchum University. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of Arizona in 2015, and went on to complete a two-year pharmacotherapy residency at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, Texas in 2017. His clinical interests are multi-faceted and include internal medicine, cardiology and oncology supportive care. Dr. Johannesmeyer's research interests include the effects of antibiotic timing on clinical outcomes and implementation methods of preceptor developmental programming.

### **Kathryn Kosteva, OD**

IHS Resident, Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

Dr. Kathryn Kosteva is currently completing a residency in Ocular Disease at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital in Sacaton, AZ. She graduated from the dual OD/MS degree program at the New England College of Optometry in 2021 and received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Boston University.

### **Bryan Grossman, OD**

IHS Resident, Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

Dr. Bryan Grossman is currently completing a residency in Ocular Disease at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital in Sacaton, AZ. He graduated from Midwestern University in 2021 and received a Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of Arizona.

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### **Kieran McMillan, OD**

IHS Resident, Tsehootsooi Medical Center

Dr. Kieran McMillan is currently completing a residency in Ocular Disease at Fort Defiance Indian Health Board (Tsehootsooi Medical Center) in Fort Defiance AZ. He graduated from optometry school at Pacific University in 2021. Dr. McMillan did his undergraduate training at the University of Colorado, Boulder where he received a Bachelors of Arts in Integrative Physiology. Later he received a Master's in Biomedical Sciences from Colorado State University. When not at Tsehootsooi Medical Center you can find Dr. McMillan hiking or mountain biking the many great trails the Navajo Reservation has to offer.

### **Damian Solano, OD**

IHS Resident, Chinle Indian Health Service Unit

Dr. Damian Solano is currently completing a residency in Ocular Disease with the Chinle Indian Health Service Unit in Chinle, Arizona. He graduated from the Arizona College of Optometry in 2021, and received a bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of New Mexico.

### **Morgan Jones, OD**

IHS Resident, Albuquerque Indian Health Service

Dr. Morgan Jones is from Sugar Land, Texas and received her bachelor's degree in Biology from Texas A&M University. She then went to complete her Doctorate in Optometry from the University of Houston College of Optometry. She is currently completing her ocular disease/primary optometry residency at Indian Health Service in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### **Jennifer Ho, OD**

IHS Resident, Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc.

Dr. Jennifer Ho is currently a resident optometrist at Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc. with a focus in Primary Care and Ocular Disease. Dr. Ho completed her undergraduate studies at UC Santa Barbara receiving a B.S. in Biopsychology. She then went on to receive her Doctorate of Optometry Degree in 2021 from Southern California College of Optometry. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her fiancé and three dogs.

### **Nha-Han Nguyen, OD**

IHS Resident, Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc.

Dr. Nha-Han Nguyen is a resident optometrist at the Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health Inc where she provides care to the native population in the Soboba, Morongo, Barstow, Pechanga, and San Manuel clinics. The residency program specializes in primary care and ocular disease. Dr. Nguyen graduated from Southern California College of Optometry at MBKU class of 2021 and received a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a minor in Spanish at the University of California, Riverside. She plans to stay in the Riverside area after residency. Dr. Nguyen spends her free time reading, watching movies, playing games, and occasionally going on hikes.