

2023 NJSOP Member Spotlights

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Lorenzo Stampone

- As the current 2026 Class Council Secretary (to-be 2026 SUNY Graduate), he has enjoyed keeping his fellow classmates informed and working with the class council to continue to improve the school experience. He also is proud to serve as a peer mentor for the class of 2027.
- Lorenzo is President-Elect of the SUNY NJSOP student group.
- A career in optometry appealed to him because it is versatile, encompasses a wide range of patient interactions and diverse environments.
- He interned as a scribe at High Mountain Eyecare in North Haledon for three years. Mentors Drs. David Rajkowski and Lauren Rosato provided him invaluable guidance.
- Lorenzo's professional goals are to work at a private practice in Northern NJ and eventually be the owner of a private practice in the same area.

FAST FACTS

After graduation in 2026, he is looking forward to seeing how New Jersey has expanded the scope of practice for optometry and continuing to learn from his optometric colleagues to become a better optometric physician.



Dr. Leonard Steiner

- He joined the NJSOP in 1974 and graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1978. He also holds a Master of Science in Anatomy.
- Dr. Steiner has always been passionate about medical optometry and the expansion of the scope of optometry. He was active in the development of and advocacy for the New Jersey therapeutic laws, which he helped author. He has been in practice for 45 years, and for the last 28 years he has been a partner at Eyegroup in Oakhurst, NJ.
- Dr. Steiner was the NJSOP President from 1995- 1997. He was appointed to the NJ State Board of Optometry (NJSBO) from 2000-2010, serving as the NJSBO president four times. He also has served at the national level on AOA committees, and lectured nationally on the topic of scope of practice. He has received multiple awards and honors during his professional career.

FAST FACT

Dr. Steiner's commitment to our state association started early during optometry school, where he served as the president of their Student Society of the NJSOP, then named the New Jersey Optometric Association.

For him, it is a privilege and honor to be a part of the profession of Optometry in this state, and a member of NJSOP.



Dr. Arun Kaistha

- He attended the University of Virginia before graduating from SUNY Optometry in 2003. At SUNY, he was Student Council President and received the Chancellor's Award. He completed a residency in Primary Care at PCO/Salus in 2004. Dr. Kaistha joined NJSOP in 2004 and has been a member for 19 years.
- After five years of working in an ophthalmology practice, Dr. Kaistha entered private practice as owner at Cooper River Eye Associates in Pennsauken, NJ. He truly enjoys both the routine and medical aspects of the profession but finds the greatest joy in helping many patients with their specialty lens needs.
- Dr. Kaistha is married to Dr. Rupal Patel Kaistha, SUNY Optometry Class of 2004, and they have three wonderful daughters. He loves being a girl dad and enjoys watching his girls participate in many sports including softball, basketball, volleyball, crew and swim. The best part is his girls are excellent bakers and spoil their dad.

FAST FACT

Dr. Kaistha enjoys playing basketball, albeit badly, and watching his beloved Steelers!!!



Dr. Kelley E. Sedlock

- She graduated from The Ohio State University in 2019. She founded the college's Ocular Disease Club and received the Ocular Disease award for her graduating class. She then completed her residency in Louisville, KY.
- She performed expanded scope optometry throughout her time in Kentucky. In addition, she worked closely with a renowned corneal specialist and became proficient in as well as passionate about anterior segment disease.
- With this training, she hopes to advocate for expanded scope legislation in New Jersey so she can practice how she is most familiar and provide the most comprehensive care for her patients.
- Dr. Sedlock just joined the NJSOP this year and is also an active member of the American Academy of Optometry and will be presenting for the first time at this meeting in the fall of 2023.
- Dr. Sedlock credits her late uncle as her inspiration for a career in medical optometry as he was diagnosed with metastatic cancer through an eye exam.

FAST FACT

New Jersey was never a part of Dr. Sedlock's life plan, but she moved here to be with her fiancé, Michael, and now she can't imagine living anywhere else!



Dr. Amy Lam

- Dr. Lam is the Director of Low Vision Services at University Hospital, the teaching hospital for Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. She splits her time between low vision/general eye clinic and teaches ophthalmology residents clinically and didactically.
- Dr. Lam graduated SUNY in 2015 and has been a member of NJSOP since 2016.
- She has been a long time consultant of the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and is passionate about providing quality low vision care to all individuals, regardless of age, race, or socioeconomic status.
- Dr. Lam is a strong believer in fostering good relationships with ophthalmology and working cooperatively with other eye care providers.
- Dr. Lam completed the AOA Leadership Institute Program in 2022. She will apply what she learned to help optometric physicians throughout New Jersey.

FAST FACT

Her goal for this year is to circumnavigate Manhattan on a stand up paddle board!



Dr. Markus Barth

- Dr. Barth graduated from Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) in 1974, began practicing optometry in Lawrenceville, and subsequently founded Allied Vision Services.
- Dr. Barth has been a NJSOP member since 1973, and became an NJSOP president in 1990. While president, NJ became the 29th state to permit ODs to use therapeutic drops, and NJSOP adopted the AOA model of committee system governance.
- He serves on the Salus University Alumni Board of Directors. In his PCO student years, he represented the PCO student government at Health Alliance for Progress, an organization comprised of all the student governments of the Philadelphia health care colleges.
- He continues to participate in ongoing opportunities to connect with legislators who are champions for the profession.

FAST FACT

In 2002 US State House Speaker Albio Sires asked and Dr. Barth agreed to serve on the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. Dr. Barth continued on that commission until 2022 to promote the implementation of Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in NJ.



Viral Shah

- Viral Shah is wrapping up his first external rotation at a busy medically-oriented optometry practice in southern Virginia.
- He started his didactic education at Salus University's Pennsylvania College of Optometry in the midst of the pandemic early in 2020, now has under one year until graduation.
- He has worked as both an optometry technician at Visionworks as well as working at an eyewear manufacturing facility at US Vision in South Jersey.
- This has allowed him to get a greater understanding of the optometric profession, and will only help enhance his practice as a healthcare professional.
- After graduation in May 2024, he looks forward to being even more involved in NJSOP and taking on a greater role in understanding and advocating for the legislative aspect of optometry in New Jersey.

FAST FACTS

- He is president for the Salus NJSOP student group and is involved in volunteering for NJ Special Olympics
- He is also a peer mentor for underclassmen and manager of the Note Taking Service at his university.



DR. FALCO

- Dr. Jaime Falco graduated from Indiana University School of Optometry in 2009, and joined the NJSOP in 2014.
- She finds professional value and joy when helping others to see and be their best every day.
- She is the sole owner of dba Green Brook Vision, an optometry clinic and optical boutique in Green Brook, NJ.
- Her patients report that her work space evokes a sense of happiness and relaxation. She believes that patients deserve an experience that elevates them.
- She has over 15 years of professional experience as a key opinion leader, speaker, and brand ambassador for companies like Bausch and Alcon.
- In addition, she has authored and presented several CE lectures for both NJSOP and other organizations, on the topics of nutrition and proactive holistic health management.

FAST FACTS

- Her 4400 sq. foot spa like work space has unique- 2 story open ceilings, with polished concrete floors, and luxe furniture.
- She designed and selected the decor herself during COVID.
- The work space end result is even more grand than she expected!



DR. POTTER

- ⊙ Dr. Potter was inspired to become an optometric physician by his mother who worked as a registered nurse, as well as from his undergraduate studies in psychology and neurological systems.
- ⊙ Dr. Potter practiced optometry for 37 years, providing approximately 200,000 patient visits, and transitioned to the pharmaceutical industry in 2019. During his career, his professional interests included the connection of ocular and systemic disease and specialty contact lenses.
- ⊙ Primary Care Optometry News listed him in their "Top 250" list of Most Influential ODs for 2016.
- ⊙ Recently retired from optometric practice and the pharmaceutical industry, Dr. Bill Potter will be volunteering his time to NJSOP by joining the NJSOP Clinical Care Center to help develop clinical standards and skills continuing education for New Jersey's optometric physicians.

FAST FACTS

- He joined the NJSOP in 1983
- He served for about 10 years on the Review of Optometry's Editorial Board
- Formerly a college baseball pitcher, he now serves as a Co-Chairman of the University of Pennsylvania Baseball Alumni Board

