

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information

Name: Goldis Malek, PhD (Incumbent Trustee)

Affiliation: Duke University

Dates of AOPT membership: 2015 – present



Biographical sketch:

Goldis Malek, PhD is a tenured Associate Professor at Duke University with appointments in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Pathology. She received her BS and BA in Biology and Psychology from the University of South Florida and her PhD degree in Vision Science and Physiological Optics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, during which she developed an interest in studying the pathology and cellular mechanisms underlying retinal diseases. After completing her postdoctoral studies at Duke University in the Department of Ophthalmology, she joined the faculty in 2006.

With a background in cell biology and pathology of the posterior eye, she has experience in developing murine models of retinal degeneration and testing targeting therapies for retinal diseases. Her laboratory focuses on defining the mechanism of action of nuclear receptors in the aging retina and age-related macular degeneration. To date, she has identified lipid, steroid hormone, and toxin-activated nuclear receptors, which may play a role in retinal disease initiation and progression using genetic and pharmacological methods in *in vitro* and *in vivo* platforms. Her labs' efforts have received recognitions, including an Alcon Research Institute Young Investigator Award, a Research to Prevent Blindness Sybil B. Harrington Scholars Award, and a BrightFocus Foundation, Carolyn K. McGillvray Memorial Award for Macular Degeneration Research. In support of the scientific community, Dr. Malek reviews grant applications for NEI and research foundations, is an editorial board member for Journal of Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Molecular Vision, and Current Eye Research, and serves on the ISER communication committee.

Prior support and participation in AOPT: Dr. Malek has been a member of AOPT since 2015. Currently, she serves on the AOPT Board of Trustees. She participated and presented at AOPT 2015, and 2017. For the 2021 meeting, the first AOPT all virtual meeting, she organized, recruited speakers, and will be moderating a session titled “Novel therapeutic targeting for age-related macular degeneration – overcoming the challenging path to success”. In anticipation of the 2021 meeting, she wrote an editorial, printed in JOPT, to help inform scientists unfamiliar with AOPT of the upcoming meeting, March 4th-7th, 2021.

Vision for AOPT if elected: If selected to serve a second term as a Trustee, she aims to continue to contribute to the success of AOPT, participate in organization of the next AOPT meeting, and explore new ways to increase long-term engagement of young and under representative scientists, in the meeting and ocular research.

pg. 1 Vote: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2hwMRYr_21iSKtydje13n-1d1btAEAU1aiQ2VW0hh8HDiaA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information

Name: Chi-Ho To, PDip(Optom), PhD (Incumbent Trustee)

Affiliation: Henry G. Leong Professor in Elderly Vision Health
Chair Professor of Experimental Optometry
Head, School of Optometry, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Dates of AOPT Membership: Since January 2019



Biographical Sketch:

Aqueous Humour Dynamics: I am interested in understanding the aqueous humour dynamics of the eye. The knowledge on aqueous humour dynamics will have very direct impact on devising effective hypotensive strategies for managing the IOP of glaucoma patients. We study the ionic species that are transported by the ciliary epithelium and how the in vitro fluid formation rate may be correlated with active ion transport.

Myopia: My research aim is to understand both the optical and molecular mechanism underlying excessive eye growth in myopia. We presented optical defocused images to the retina to animal eyes and studied eye growth. Apparently, the retina is capable of integrating optical defocus spatially and temporally for guiding eye growth. We went on to design myopia control lenses for young children to slow myopic growth. I am also interested in understanding the molecular mechanism in myopic eye growth. Using proteomics approach, we have been profiling protein changes during normal and myopic eye growth at different time points. This information may help in devising pharmacological agents that can retard excessive eye growth.

Support to AOPT: I took part in a number of AOPT conferences and published in the JOPT as well. I have been a trustee since 2019 for two years, taking part in the discussion of business related to AOPT.

Plans for AOPT – my contribution: I will continue to publicize AOPT among Asia countries/cities – China, Taiwan, Singapore, to encourage young Chinese eye research scientists to take part in this organization. Through these activities, I hope to help elevate the standard of eye research in the region and enhance collaboration on a global scale.

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information:

Name: Sanjoy K. Bhattacharya, M.Sc., M. Tech., PhD (Incumbent Trustee)

Affiliation: University of Miami, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Dates of AOPT Membership: Since 2019



Biographical Sketch:

Sanjoy Bhattacharya is a tenured Professor at University of Miami, Miami, FL, USA. Professor Bhattacharya completed Master's degrees, in Biotechnology, in Bioengineering from Banaras Hindu University, and a PhD degree in Bioengineering from Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, India. He subsequently did fellowships in Pharmacology and Structural

Biology at McGill University, Montreal, Canada and at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Ohio, USA respectively.

Dr. Bhattacharya next joined Cole Eye Institute and Molecular Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland as Assistant Professor. Subsequently he moved to Bascom Palmer Eye Institute earning tenure and full Professorship. Dr. Bhattacharya's research encompasses understanding intraocular pressure homeostasis and multi-omics approaches towards long distance regeneration and reinnervation of neurons in the optic nerve with objective to restore functional vision. He is member of the board of trustees of Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics. His research employs multidisciplinary approach and high-end mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance instruments as well cell and animal models for investigation of ocular neurodegenerative diseases including those that are associated with demyelination. He is current a member of several editorial boards, serves as Academic editor of PLoS One and Annals of Eye Research. He also currently serves as Chair of Medical School Faculty Council at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, overseeing all legislative business and policy making for the school.

Prior support of AOPT:

- Member of AOPT since 2019
- Organizer AOPT XV Biennial meeting
- PI of the R13 Grant for AOPT XV Biennial meeting

Plans for AOPT: Shall act as think tank to synergize scientific areas. Shall act as a think tank to bring mentoring programs (student, postdoc, junior faculty) under the aegis of AOPT.

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information:

Name: Najam Sharif, PhD, DSc. (Incumbent Trustee)

Affiliation: Santen Inc USA

Dates of AOPT Membership: > 16 years



Biographical Sketch:

Naj Sharif, *PhD, DSc* has >34-years' pharmaceutical drug discovery research/development experience covering neuroscience and ophthalmology. His 22-year tenure at Alcon resulted in his contributions to the discovery, characterization, development, and US FDA approvals of Patanol[®]/Pataday[®]/Pazeo[®] and Emadine[®] to treat allergic conjunctivitis, and Travatan[®] and Simbrinza[®] for the treatment of ocular hypertension / Glaucoma. He is Vice President, Global Alliances and External Research, Ophthalmology Innovation Center at Santen Inc USA, where he has been instrumental in establishing, nurturing, and managing long term partnerships with pharma companies and several global universities. Dr. Sharif serves on numerous committees of many learned Societies (including ISER, elected Trustee of AOPT; Gold Fellow of ARVO and Fellow of British Pharmacological Society (BPS)). Dr. Sharif is Editor/Associate Editor/Editorial Board member of many Pharmacology and Ophthalmic journals. He is the recipient of the inaugural Dr. Roger Vogel award for ocular pharmaceutical research (ARVO Foundation, 2104), the recipient of the "Sir James Black Award" for contributions to drug discovery (BPS, 2017), and awarded of the Ernst Barany Prize for outstanding contributions to ocular pharmacology (Nov. 2020). Dr. Sharif is an Adjunct Professor / Honorary Senior Lecturer / Senior Principal Investigator and graduate Faculty at multiple Universities worldwide. He has also been a PhD candidate supervisor, advisor and mentor to several students at numerous academic institutions. Dr. Sharif has published >210 scientific articles, edited 2 books, holds 24 issued US/EU patents, and has filed >30 patent applications over the last two decades

Prior Support of AOPT: I've been a member of AOPT for >16 years and have attended many of the society's conferences. My group and/or I have presented our research work at all of these AOPT meetings. Additional support includes contributing financially to support the AOPT meetings, organizing sessions and chairing sessions at the meetings. Finally, my group and I have published extensively in the society's journal JOPT, and for which I've been an Associate Editor for >12 years, and for which I recently completed a double-issue of a Special Issue on Drug Discovery and Development.

Plans for AOPT: Having been a Trustee for AOPT during the past year, I've learnt a lot about the society and its governance. I've tried to attend all the required meetings and contributed to the Agendas and the decision-making processes throughout 2020. If elected, I will continue to support the society in its mission and contribute intellectually, physically by attending the AOPT conferences and by contributing to the AOPT meetings (business and conferences) by organizing, co-chairing sessions and speaking at the conferences. I shall also endeavor to contribute towards the fund-raising activities of the society and publish in JOPT.

pg. 4 Vote: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2hwMRYr_21iSKtydje13n-1d1btAEAU1aiQ2VW0hh8HDiaA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information:

Name: Shahid Husain, PhD (Incumbent Trustee)

Affiliation: Medical University of South Carolina

Dates of AOPT Membership:



Biographical Sketch:

Shahid Husain (PhD) is currently a professor of Ophthalmology at Storm Eye Institute at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston, SC. He has over 27 years of ocular pharmacology and physiology research experience dealing with aqueous humor dynamics, ocular immunology, and neuroprotection. During his career development, Dr. Husain published fine peer-reviewed research papers and he has been funded from National Eye Institute, American Health Assistance Foundation, BrightFocus, and numerous pharmaceutical companies for his research projects. Dr. Husain's laboratory has provided evidence that δ -opioid-receptor activation provides neuroprotection against acute and chronic ocular-

hypertension-induced retinopathies. *Recently, he proposed the idea that δ -opioids induced epigenetic changes in the retina and optic nerve that play crucial roles in maintaining the functional and structural integrity of RGCs.* Dr. Husain received numerous prestigious awards throughout his research career and he serves on numerous committees at MUSC and outside MUSC including study section member of Career development award (CDA) from VA from 2017-2020, Ad hoc reviewer at National Eye Institute (NEI) since 2013, and Ad hoc reviewer at Medical Research Council, United Kingdom SN2 1ET in 2013. Dr. Husain also serves as a committee member of MD program and thesis committee members of numerous students at MUSC. Currently, Dr. Husain has published over 57 per-reviewed research papers, review articles, and book chapters.

Prior Support of AOPT: AOPT has been my favorite society because it offers me to interact more closely with attending members and friends. I have been an AOPT member for over a decade. I have attended numerous AOPT meetings since 1996. My first AOPT meeting was in Birmingham, Alabama in 1996. Overall, I and my research group enjoyed and learned while attending and presenting in AOPT meetings. In the past, I also enjoyed organizing sessions, moderating sessions, reviewing abstracts, awarding young scientist awards, and organizing an AOPT meeting in Charleston SC. I have been contributing to the society's journal JOPT by publishing my research. Additionally, I have been serving as an editorial board member for JOPT since 2017 and providing continuous services to the society and the journal.

Plans for AOPT: It was a great experience serving as Trustee for AOPT in the last two years. In reality, it was very different due to the Pandemic and I have learned new ways to overcome challenges while serving AOPT. There were numerous decisions we made in the last two years and many of them were not easy including moving of AOPT meeting from country to country and then finally from a physical meeting to a 100% virtual meeting. Regardless of such challenges, we as board members made significant progress in spite of numerous road blocks and unseen challenges. I am looking forward for a continuous growth and development for AOPT in coming years. If I am elected again, I will continue to support the society for its mission and contribute intellectually. I will promote AOPT rigorously to other colleagues and friends. I will encourage others and I will physically attend all AOPT scientific conferences, business meetings, and board meetings. I will also support the society by organizing and co-chairing sessions.

pg. 5 Vote: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2hwMRYr_21iSKtydje13n-1d1btAEAU1aiQ2VW0hh8HDiaA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information



Name: Malinda Fitzgerald, PhD (incumbent nonvoting board advisor)

Affiliation: University of Tennessee

Dates of AOPT Membership: Since 2011

Biographical sketch:

Malinda E.C. Fitzgerald, Ph.D. is currently a research consultant at UTHSC. In this capacity, she collaborates with faculty on several research projects. Previously she served as a tenured full professor at both Southern College of Optometry (8 years) and Christian Brothers University (25 years). The university positions consisted of full time teaching; however, currently she is devoting her professional energies on research primarily with Dr. Anton Reiner, after limiting her teaching responsibilities in 2020. Her area of research involves the nature, basis and consequences of vascular abnormalities in the eye during disease and the normal aging process. Concentrating on the importance of regulation of choroidal blood flow (ChBF) for the health of the retina. Her published data indicates that both decreases in baseline ChBF and/or CNS control of autonomic regulation contribute to the etiology and/or progression of ocular diseases. Since 1992, she has been continuously funded by private and government grants; NEI/NIA (RO1), Minority Health and Health Disparities (training grant, T37) and as a collaborator on NEI grants. She has given numerous invited seminars and presented at AOPT, ISER, and ARVO. She is an ARVO Gold Fellow, a member of the Dowling Society of ARVO, as well as a member of the 2019 class of AOPT fellows.

Prior support and participation in AOPT: Dr. Fitzgerald has been a member of AOPT since 2011, served as a member of the AOPT Board from 2013-2019 and continued to serve as a board advisor from 2019-present. During her time on the board she: (1) Enhanced recruitment of trainees and young investigators via fellowships and awards by developing forums of round table discussions, and young investigator platform session for three AOPT meetings; (2) Served on the awards committee since 2014 and chaired or co -chaired this committee for the last two AOPT meetings; (3) Served as a moderator/participant in AOPT meetings since 2011. In preparation for the current virtual meeting, organized a session involving Brazilian young scientists that haven't participated in AOPT previously, and (4) Began a social media presence in 2012 that has expanded: with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Plans for AOPT if elected: If selected to serve as a Trustee, she aims to continue to contribute to the future of AOPT. Particularly focusing on the social media presence by expanding to include snippets of the virtual meeting and potentially starting a you tube channel. Her passion has been mentoring young scientists, particularly from developing countries. Her twenty years of directing an international training grant allowed her support trainees from other countries and diverse backgrounds. This has also been the focus of her work in ARVO and she would like to continue this within the context of a Board position member of AOPT.

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information

Name: Mei Chen, PhD

Affiliation: Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

Dates of AOPT Membership: Since 2020



Biographical Sketch:

Dr Chen is a senior lecturer in the Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine at the Queens University Belfast UK. She graduated in Medicine from Central South University and was trained as a Physician in China. She obtained a Master degree (in Medical Genetics) and a PhD (in Physiology) from the University of Aberdeen, UK. She began her research career in ocular immunology under the mentorship of Professor John Forrester in the University of Aberdeen. She set up her own research lab in 2012 at Queen's University Belfast and the research in her lab centres on the role of inflammation in retinal degenerative diseases and the development of immunotherapies. She has published over 70 peer-reviewed papers in high impacted journals including Progress Retina and Eye Research, Ageing Cells, IOVS, and Diabetologia. She has been actively involved in various activities of the vision scientific community and is a regular ARVO and ISER (International Society for Eye Research) goer. She is currently the committee member of ARC (Animal research committee) of ARVO (2020-2023).

Support of AOPT: She became a member of AOPT in 2020 and she is committed to the AOPT XV Biennial Meeting as an invited speaker. Before that, her group has attended AOPT meeting various times. She is keen to join the AOPT trustee and services the ocular pharmacology and therapeutics society.

Plans for AOPT: If elected, I will be pro-active in the committee and advocate AOPT including but not limited to: (1) Work to promote AOPT meetings at other meetings I attend, such as ARVO, ISER, Retinal Degeneration (RD), and EVER (European Association for Vision and Eye Research) meetings; (2) Encourage more membership from European vision researchers, in particular to develop outreach to women and underrepresented minorities in STEM and (3) Actively engage in AOPT conference organisation and support the society's journal "Journal of Ocular pharmacology and Therapeutics".

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information

Name: Mashaeh Al-Namaeh, OD, MS, PhD, FAAO

Affiliation: TelaSight, Louisville, Kentucky

Dates of AOPT Membership: Since January 2021

Biographical Sketch:



Dr Al-Namaeh is a consultant at TelaSight, Louisville, Ky. Dr Al-Namaeh is a graduate of Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. She has been trained at multiple universities and hospitals, including Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Dr Al-Namaeh has served as a founding faculty, adjunct faculty, and visitor lecture at various universities, both nationally and internationally. She has published several research articles in peer-reviewed journals. Dr Al-Namaeh is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, is a board certified by the American Board of Optometry and has received a Laser Certification from the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners.

Support for AOPT: In the future, Dr Al-Namaeh would like to support the AOPT and participate in the upcoming meetings. Dr Al-Namaeh is a new member and is interested in learning more about the AOPT. Dr Al-Namaeh is an Adjunct Professor at Oulu University of applied sciences in Finland and teaches bachelor's and master's degree students Ocular pharmacology, which provides a value to her AOPT membership.

Plans for AOPT:

- Assist in National Meetings
- Submit papers in the field to the AOPT Journal
- Submit Lecture presentations to the AOPT meeting
- Submit Research abstracts to the AOPT meeting as a poster presentation

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information

Name: Wei He, MD, PhD

Affiliation: President of He Eye Specialist Hospital, Shenyang China

Dates of AOPT Membership: Since December 2020



Biographical Sketch:

Dr. Wei He is a passionate leader in blindness prevention in China with more than 30 years' experience in ophthalmology. He has established Shenyang He Eye Specialist Hospital in December, 1995, which is the National Key Speciality in Ophthalmology. Dr. Wei set up the first outreach screening team in China in 2001, which has screened and provided free cataract surgeries for many patients. In 1999, Dr. Wei set up the He University in Shenyang, providing practical talents in ophthalmology, optometry and other subjects to the world. Dr. Wei founded China Eye Industry Base, developing and manufacturing eye products. Since, then, Dr. Wei has published 139 academic papers, owning 52 patents and undertaking 33 scientific research projects. Dr. Wei then set up the National Training Center for Prevention and Treatment of Blindness approved by National Health Commission in 2012. Dr. Wei founded the National Eye Gene Bank in China. At present, He Vision has 56 medical chain institutions and 100 basic eye care optics centers. Dr. Wei He has successfully formed He Vision Group into an integrated system includes medical service, research, education, industrialization and public welfare, which is a high-quality, affordable, replicated and sustainable prevention and treatment blindness mode with Chinese characteristics. Dr. Wei was re-elected Vice President of China National Prevention of Blindness Technical Guidance Committee. He is also a member of International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) Board of Trustee.

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information

Name: Padmanabhan Pattabiraman, PhD

Affiliation: Case Western Reserve University, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Dates of AOPT Membership: Since 2017



Biographical Sketch:

Dr. Padmanabhan Pattabiraman obtained his - Bachelors and Masters majoring in Biochemistry from Tamil Nadu, India and PhD in Neuroscience from the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA), Trieste, Italy. During his post-doctoral training at Duke University in the lab of Dr. Vasanth Rao, he demonstrated the importance of potential molecular interactions between actomyosin-based contractile activity and extracellular matrix in the regulation of intraocular pressure. He was part of the team involved in the preclinical testing of the Rhopressa™ (Netarsudil) from Aerie Pharmaceuticals. Rhopressa is currently the first FDA-approved ROCK inhibitor that improves trabecular meshwork outflow facility. At Case Western Reserve University as a Research Track Investigator, his lab focused on understanding the molecular and cellular signaling mechanisms of aqueous humor outflow physiology. He utilized proteomics of aqueous humor during ocular development to investigate the protein profile of normal aqueous humor and how it changes during development with IOP. His lab has identified clusterin, a secretory chaperone protein, as an important cell-cytoskeleton-matrix interaction and IOP regulatory protein. He joined Glick Eye Institute in Aug 2019 and has a secondary appointment in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He's an affiliate member of the Stark Neuroscience Research Institute. His lab focuses on understanding the role of mechanobiology in ocular tissues and the regulation of aqueous humor outflow and pathobiology of glaucoma. His team is examining the molecular mechanisms involved in the regulation of extracellular matrix production and turnover in the outflow pathway. Additionally, he is interested in physiology and pharmacology of neuroprotection.

Support of AOPT: Dr. Pattabiraman has participated in three previous AOPT meetings - 2015, 2017, 2019. In 2017, he chaired a session with Dr. Carol Toris. He will also be chairing a session for the 2021 meeting. In all the meetings, he has presented abstracts of his recent work. He won the Young Investigator Travel Award for the 2017 meeting. His student, Sai Supriya Vuda, won a travel award for the 2019 meeting.

Plans for AOPT: Dr. Pattabiraman would like to serve AOPT in a greater capacity than merely to present, moderate and organize sessions. He plans to serve AOPT by contributing to AOPT's functionality in both a quantitative and qualitative manner. Vision research though very important has not been seen as the major research area like cancer or diabetes. To start with, he plans to grow AOPT by organizing small satellite meetings in different zones of the United States. He will involve high school and college kids to get them excited about vision science. Increasing the number of students and young investigators will ensure a healthy society well into the future. He can foresee AOPT as the go-to resource for scientific engagement and mentorship of scientists in all stages of their careers. These ideas can ensure an exciting vision research setting in the future.

pg. 10 Vote: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2hwMRYr_21iSKtydje13n-1d1btAEAU1aiQ2VW0hh8HDiaA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information

Name: Simon Kaja, PhD

Affiliation: Loyola University Chicago and Experimentica Ltd.

Dates of AOPT Membership: Since 2015



Biographical Sketch:

Following my training in neuropharmacology and experience in the pharmaceutical and biotech industry, I currently serve as Endowed Professor in Ophthalmology at Loyola University Chicago. In addition, I am the Chief Scientific Officer and Vice-President, Americas of Experimentica Ltd., a preclinical contract research organization dedicated to ophthalmic indications. These positions reflect my efforts to facilitate and encourage academia-industry relationships. From the very beginning of my training, when I completed my undergraduate degree in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry with Industrial Placement, I have pursued opportunities of collaboration between academia, biotech, pharma, CROs and research institutes. In addition, I am passionate about graduate and medical education and have dedicated a significant portion of my career to the development of novel, collaborative graduate programs, including a new *Graduate Program in Pharmacovigilance* taught jointly by Loyola University Chicago and Abbvie, as well as the completely revised *Fundamentals of Drug Discovery and Development* course that I have co-directed at Loyola University Chicago since 2017. In the past, I have served on various committees and boards of professional organizations, including the Chicago Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience and the International Society for Eye Research, where I have been responsible among other for fundraising from industry partners.

Support of AOPT:

I have been a member of AOPT since 2015, and actively participated in the past three meetings.

Plans for AOPT:

As a Trustee of AOPT, I look forward to contributing my unique expertise and experience from academic and CRO environments, and to be a voice for the next generation of scientists by advocating and securing continued opportunities for student and post-doc members. My track record in fundraising for professional meetings will be an additional asset that will help sustain the Association's activities.

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information

Name: MD Imam Uddin, PhD

Affiliation: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Dates of AOPT Membership: Since 2020



Biographical Sketch:

I am a primary faculty member (academic) in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. In addition, I have a secondary appointment in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt University School of Engineering. I have been working in the ophthalmology field for several years and closely collaborating with my industry partner and collaborator Dr. Ash Jayagopal (President-Elect AOPT). I am passionate about graduate and medical education and interested in developing collaborative graduate program with industry partners. I have served on various

committees and boards of professional organizations, including the International Society for Eye Research (ISER) communication committee.

Support of AOPT:

I am a member of the AOPT and actively participating in the AOPT Biennial meeting.

Plans for AOPT:

As a Trustee of AOPT, I look forward to serve the community by collaborating with my industry partners and create opportunity for next generation ophthalmologists including students and post-doctoral fellows. In addition, I will contribute in fundraising for AOPT meetings that will help sustain the AOPT Association's activities.

Nominees for Trustee of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-2023

Nominee Information

Name: Debasish Sinha, PhD

Affiliation: University of Pittsburgh

Dates of AOPT Membership:



Biographical Sketch:

Debasish Sinha received his Ph.D. degree in Immunology and did a postdoctoral fellowship in Molecular Biology and Genetics from the National Eye Institute, NIH. He is a Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, Cell Biology and Developmental Biology, University of Pittsburgh with adjunct appointment in Ophthalmology, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences and Engineering, Bloomberg School of Public Health. His laboratory uses rat spontaneous mutants and genetically engineered mice as genetic tools to explore the functions of glial cells during normal neuronal and vascular development in the retina and to probe how abnormalities in glial cells lead to retinal degenerative diseases. In addition, his laboratory is also interested in understanding the processes of autophagy and phagocytosis in retinal pigmented epithelial cells and regulation of the immune system in AMD. As a Jennifer Salvitti Davis, M.D. Chair Professor in Ophthalmology Research, he has supervised thirty-five students to date. His research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (from the National Eye Institute, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the National Institute of Drug Abuse). Bayer HealthCare, Germany, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., Switzerland and Astellas, Japan continues to support his research. His research has yielded several patents and in developing therapeutic targets (<https://www.astellas.com/en/news/16036>). He has delivered invited lectureships in several conferences, as well as laboratories, around the world. He received the Sybil B. Harrington Special Scholar Award for Macular Degeneration from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Carolyn K. McGillvray Award for Macular Degeneration Research by the BrightFocus Foundation. He has been an invited Member of the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Conference on Atrophic Macular Degeneration since 2012. He was named the 2017 Dr. Bireswar Chakrabarti oration awardee, which is the highest award given by the Indian Eye Research Organization (ARVO-India Chapter). In 2017, he received the Innovative Award for AMD research from Research to Prevent Blindness and International Retina Research Fund.

Support of AOPT: I am pleased to be considered as a trustee for AOPT. I have attended past AOPT meetings and presented our work. My contributions to AOPT have included encouraging participation of Young Investigators in the meetings, and as a holder of multiple industry-academia collaborative grants and consultancies, would bolster AOPT's mission to foster more academia-industry exchange through special initiatives outside of the recurring meeting.

Plans for AOPT: As a trustee, I would support AOPT by increasing membership and visibility of the organization and encouraging the inclusion of joint academic-industry symposia within AOPT biennial and special meetings. I would also work to increase diversity within the organization by focusing on recruiting more international members. I look forward to serving as a trustee of AOPT.

pg. 13 Vote: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2hwMRYr_21iSKtydje13n-1d1btAEAU1aiQ2VW0hh8HDiaA/viewform?usp=sf_link

2021-2023

Voting ends March 7, 2021
6:00am Eastern

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2hwMRYr_21iSKtydje13n-1d1btAEAU1aiQ2VW0hh8HDiaA/viewform?usp=sf_link