

## AAO Foundation – News From the Chair – for *Scope*, Winter 2021

- Scope email: **Feb. 21**
- News From the Chair email: **Feb. 28**

### News From the Foundation

By Gregory L. Skuta, MD, Chair, Foundation Advisory Board

The Foundation Advisory Board and staff have finished another challenging year strong. We are so grateful to each member who gave back to support Academy programs last year. We raise a glass to you as we enter this new year with hope for health and confidence in the future.

### Announcing the New Parke Center

It was my privilege to announce in November that the Academy will name a new conference center at Academy headquarters after former CEO David W. Parke II, MD. The Parke Center is a much-needed facility that will enhance the Academy's ability to host board, committee, industry and other meetings; as well as to build and strengthen relationships with ophthalmic leaders and key partners.

We deeply appreciate our anchor donors who have provided the funding to launch this \$2.5 million campaign: OMIC (\$1 million), through leaders Tim Padovese, Dan J. Briceland, MD, and the OMIC Board of Directors; and philanthropic leaders David E. I. and Molly Pyott (\$250,000). With \$1.25 million left, my wife Anne and I are pleased to join Tamara R. Fountain, MD, and George A. Williams, MD, with significant gifts. If you would like to join us and be specially recognized, contact Tina McGovern at [tmcgovern@aao.org](mailto:tmcgovern@aao.org) or 415.581.8508.

### Support Minority Mentoring

The Foundation has launched a [campaign to raise \\$1 million for the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program](#). This program aims to increase concordance between ophthalmologists and patients by helping qualified students who are underrepresented in medicine become competitive ophthalmology residency applicants. We've raised more than \$200,000 — let's keep up that momentum! Your contribution will play an important part in reaching more patients in a broader spectrum of cultural groups and languages.

### New Chair for the Orbital Gala

We are proud to announce Christie L. Morse, MD, as the new chair of the [2022 Orbital Gala](#). Dr. Morse has served on numerous Academy committees, including the Orbital Gala Committee, Foundation Advisory Board, Board of Trustees and EyeCare America® Steering Committee. This uniquely fun event will take place in Chicago during AAO 2022. We look forward to working with Dr. Morse and her dedicated committee of volunteers to make this year's gala a huge success.



✔ Morse final 2017

## **Honor Your Mentor Today**

The Foundation's [Honor a Mentor campaign](#) provides a special opportunity for donors to pay tribute to those who have made a positive professional impact on our lives while supporting Academy programs. Join George A. Williams, MD; Jane C. Edmond, MD; Cheryl L. Huey, MD; David F. Chang, MD; Tamara R. Fountain, MD; myself and others who have honored their mentors. Donate to your fund of choice and tell us what your mentor or colleague has meant to you.

## **An Easy, Automated Way to Give Back**

The Foundation is pleased to offer you an easy way to support Academy programs. Now, for the cost of a latte a day, you can [make a monthly or quarterly recurring gift](#) and never think about it again while your dollars work on behalf of patients globally.

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Thank you again for your continued support of the Academy Foundation. I wish all of you a happy, healthy new year. I love to hear from you. Feel free to contact me any time at [gskuta@aao.org](mailto:gskuta@aao.org).