

SCENES FROM THE WOMEN IN OPHTHALMOLOGY (WIO) SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

“THE WIO MEETING IS SPECIAL BECAUSE IT'S ABOUT EMPOWERING ASPIRATIONS. THIS IS A ONE-OF-A-KIND MEETING THAT NOT ONLY HAS TOP-NOTCH SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TO TALK ABOUT THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES, BUT ALSO OFFERS SPECIFICALLY CURATED CONTENT FOR WOMEN IN OPHTHALMOLOGY FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS, WET LABS, AND WELLNESS. THIS MEETING IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR WOMEN IN OPHTHALMOLOGY TO EXCEL IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL LIVES.”
—PURNIMA PATEL, MD

“The WIO meeting is about empowerment. It's about camaraderie, it's about community. It's about sharing and exchanging ideas together and being stronger together.”
—Purnima Patel, MD

With the goal of helping women ophthalmologists advance into leadership positions, the **Women in Ophthalmology (WIO) Summer Symposium** is a must-attend event for those looking to promote inclusivity in medicine. Through its professional development curriculum, the symposium provides its more than 500 attendees with opportunities to enhance their communication and presentation skills, build their media presence, and master the art of negotiation. Additionally, attendees have access to updates on the latest scientific advances, exclusive leadership content geared specifically

toward women, and ample opportunities to network with their mentors and peers. WIO also recently launched a member Listserv to help attendees stay in touch and maintain the connections established at the conference.

At the 2019 WIO Summer Symposium in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Lisa Nijm, MD, JD; Tamara Fountain, MD; and Purnima Patel, MD, discussed WIO's partnership with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the new career coaching program, and what makes the annual meeting unique.

“We’re focused on identifying your goals, how you want to advance in leadership, and what you want to accomplish in your career, as well as pairing you with amazing seasoned women ophthalmologists who can help serve as your mentors and help you take your career development to the next level.”

—Lisa Nijm, MD, JD

“WIO IS SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A MEETING. WE ARE THE ONLY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO IMPROVING AND ENHANCING THE PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN OPHTHALMOLOGISTS. THE SUMMER SYMPOSIUM IS OUR SIGNATURE EVENT WHERE WE PROVIDE OUTSTANDING SCIENTIFIC CONTENT AND SURGICAL WET LABS INTERWOVEN WITH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS IN A REFRESHING AND REJUVENATING ATMOSPHERE. WIO OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO PRESENT YOUR RESEARCH, NETWORK WITH COLLEAGUES, AND HONE YOUR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TO ACHIEVE GREAT SUCCESS IN YOUR CAREER. WE WELCOME EVERYONE—WOMEN AND MEN—TO JOIN US.”

—LISA NIJM, MD, JD

“IT’S A CHANCE TO LEARN FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE IN DIFFERENT PLACES IN THEIR CAREERS. IT’S A GREAT PLACE FOR CROSS-POLLINATION FOR WOMEN WHO ARE LATER IN THEIR CAREERS, EARLY IN THEIR CAREERS, MID-CAREER. WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND DIFFERENT CONCERNS, AND THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO COME TOGETHER AS A FAMILY AND SHARE THAT DIVERSITY OF BACKGROUND AND DIVERSITY OF OPINION.”

—TAMARA FOUNTAIN, MD

“What WIO offers that other meetings don’t is the executive coaching aspect that I like to describe, which helps us to learn how to project ourselves, how to create our power poses, and how to be more comfortable with interviews.”

—Tamara Fountain, MD



To become a member of Women in Ophthalmology (WIO) or find out more on next year’s meeting (August 20-23, 2020 at the Ritz Carlton on Amelia Island), visit www.wionline.org