



# EPSAA

Eye Physicians and Surgeons Association of Alberta

**2026 Annual Scientific Meeting  
Banff Park Lodge & Conference Centre  
Banff, Alberta  
January 30 & 31, 2026**

**Program Learning Objectives:**

*At the end of the meeting, participants will be able to:*

1. Modern approaches to corneal surgeries
2. Accommodating IOLs
3. Approaches to epiphora TBD
4. Contemporary approaches to surgical education
5. Novel research being performed by resident physicians in Alberta.

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS). You may claim a maximum of 5.5 hours (credits are automatically calculated). The specific opinions and content of this event are not necessarily those of COS, and are the responsibility of the organizer(s) alone. Through an agreement between the RSPSC and the American Medical Association, physicians may convert MOC credits to AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Information on the process to convert MOC credit to AMA credit can be found at [www.ama-assn.org/go/internationalcme](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/internationalcme).

*Accredited programming only occurs on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.*

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

5:00 to 7:00 PM	EPSAA AGM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPSAA members only.</li> </ul>	Summit Room
7:00 to 9:00	<b>Industry Partner Reception</b>	<b>Castle/Assiniboine Rooms</b>

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2026

7:30 to 8:30	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	
8:30 to 8:50	<b>Session 1: Impact of residual refractive error on visual and patient reported outcomes in cataract surgery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Julie Schallhorn</li> </ul>	
8:50 to 9:10	<b>Session 2: Metaverse: the future of surgical education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Steve Houston</li> </ul>	
9:10 to 9:30	<b>Session 3: Pearls of blepharoplasty</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Don Kikkawa</li> </ul>	
9:30 to 10:00	<b>Session 4: Optometry Scope Expansion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Michael Levitt</li> </ul>	
10:00 to 10:30	<b>BREAK</b>	
10:30 to 10:50	<b>Session 5: What's New in the Alphabet Soup of Corneal Surgeries: BMAK, CTAK, CAIRS, and MICE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Kamran Riaz</li> </ul>	
10:50 to 11:10	<b>Session 6: Update on Accommodating IOLs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Julie Schallhorn</li> </ul>	
11:10 to 11:30	<b>Session 7: Home OCT: remote monitoring of AMD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Steve Houston</li> </ul>	
11:30-11:50	<b>Session 8: How to get your best results in ptosis surgery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Don Kikkawa</li> </ul>	
11:50-1:00	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1:00-1:20	<b>Session 9: Top 5 Pearls for Using Our Biometry Devices Better</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Kamran Riaz</li> </ul>	
1:20-1:40	<b>Session 10: Extended depth of focus IOLs: Here now and coming soon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Julie Schallhorn</li> </ul>	
1:40-2:10	<b>Session 11 (Residents' Presentations):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Alberta Resident</li> <li>• University of Calgary Resident</li> </ul>	
2:10-2:30	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:30-2:50	<b>Session 12: Surgical Tele-mentoring: breaking down the walls of our siloed OR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Steve Houston</li> </ul>	
2:50-3:10	<b>Session 13: Evaluation and management of epiphora</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Don Kikkawa</li> </ul>	
3:10-3:30	<b>Session 14: Updates in IOL Calculations in Post-Refractive Surgery Eyes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Kamren Riaz</li> </ul>	
3:30-6:00	<b>FREE TIME</b>	
6:00-9:00	<b>GALA DINNER (EPSAA Members, Guests &amp; Sponsors)</b> <i>Reception 6:00, Dinner 7:00</i>	

# 2026 Program Faculty

## Dr. Kamran Riaz, MD



Kamran M. Riaz, MD is a Clinical Professor, the Thelma Gaylord Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology, Vice-Chair for Clinical Research, and Director of the Stephenson Refractive Surgery Center at the Dean McGee Eye Institute, University of Oklahoma. His clinical and surgical practice focuses on cornea, cataract, and refractive surgery, with particular expertise in managing complications from cataract surgery, secondary intraocular lens (IOL) surgery, and innovative corneal procedures.

Dr. Riaz earned dual bachelor's degrees in economics and history from the University of Illinois at Chicago, graduating magna cum laude from the Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions (GPPA) Honors College. He received his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine and completed his ophthalmology residency at Northwestern University, where he served as Chief Resident. He then pursued fellowship training in Cornea, External Disease, and Refractive Surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

His academic career began at the University of Chicago, where he revitalized the refractive surgery service, launched a region-wide optics curriculum, and introduced several advanced corneal and refractive surgical procedures. He was twice recognized by residents for his exceptional teaching, receiving both the Best Teacher Award (2018) and the Chicago Area Teacher of the Year Award (2019). He was also honored by hospital leadership for restoring sight to a patient who had been blind for 38 years.

Since joining the Dean McGee Eye Institute in 2019, Dr. Riaz has developed a regional and national referral practice for complex anterior segment surgery. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications and 22 book chapters, and has delivered more than 120 presentations at national and international meetings. He has been invited to lecture, teach surgical wet labs, and serve as a visiting professor at numerous institutions nationally and internationally—including programs for veterinary ophthalmologists. He currently serves as Chair of the BCSC Optics textbook, serves on multiple journals' editorial boards, and co-developed the Cooke-Riaz-Wendelstein (CRW1) Index, a novel algorithm designed to improve cataract surgery outcomes in post-laser vision correction eyes.

Outside of medicine, he enjoys history documentaries, football, basketball, and jazz. He and his wife, a physician and neurosurgery researcher, have their hands full with their three children.

## Dr. Steve Houston III, MD



Doctor Steven Houston holds a Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Florida and earned his medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He completed an internship at Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami and an ophthalmology residency at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, FL. Following residency training, Dr. Houston completed a fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery and diseases at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, PA.

Doctor Houston has extensive research experience on surgical and medical retinal diseases and ocular oncology. He has over 70 peer-reviewed publications and presentations at national and international conferences. Doctor Houston is a manuscript reviewer for Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (IOVS) and Retina. He is also a contributing writer for Retina Today, New Retina MD, and iMedical Apps.com

Dr. Steven Houston has qualified to receive the new Fellow of The American Society of Retina Specialists (FASRS) designation! The FASRS is awarded based on criteria that recognize members in good standing who have demonstrated consistent commitment to the Society, ASRS, expertise in the management of vitreoretinal disorders, and the highest ethical and professional standards.

## Dr. Julie Schallhorn, MD



Dr. Julie Schallhorn is an ophthalmologist who treats cataracts and diseases of the cornea. In addition to performing corneal transplants and cataract surgery, she performs refractive surgeries, including LASIK and PRK, to correct common vision problems such as nearsightedness. She cares for both children and adults.

Dr. Schallhorn's research focuses on cornea and refractive surgeries. She is especially interested in refractive surgery outcomes and the role of corneal imaging for screening refractive surgery patients.

After earning a master's degree in bioengineering at the University of California, San Diego, Dr. Schallhorn completed her medical degree at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. She completed a residency in ophthalmology at UCSF, followed by a fellowship in uveitis at the UCSF Francis I. Proctor Foundation for Research in Ophthalmology. She also completed a fellowship in cornea, external disease and refractive surgery at Oregon Health & Science University's Casey Eye Institute.

Dr. Schallhorn belongs to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, International Society of Refractive Surgery, American Uveitis Society and Cornea Society.

Dr. Schallhorn is associate director of UCSF's residency program in ophthalmology. She organizes classroom and research curricula for residents.

## Dr. Don Kikkawa, MD



Don Kikkawa, MD, serves as division chief of ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery. This specialty combines traditional studies and patient care as an ophthalmologist with a fellowship in reconstruction and plastic surgery around the eyes. The extensive training uniquely qualifies these specialists to perform delicate surgery on the eyelids, around the eyes, the drainage system, and on the bones around the eye. Dr. Kikkawa finds the field very gratifying; reversing the effects of aging, restoring a normal appearance to disfigured trauma or diseased patients, and eliminating vision-threatening tumors.

Respected for his knowledge and surgical experience, patients travel to San Diego from throughout the United States, as well as other countries, for Dr. Kikkawa's skills. He has hosted several highly praised medical conferences for his colleagues and was selected by them for Best Doctors in America. Additionally, Dr. Kikkawa serves as one of three Shiley specialists that comprise our unique Thyroid Eye Clinic to treat patients with this disfiguring and vision-threatening disease.

## Mr. Michael Levitt



Mr. Levitt is the Head of Data Analytics for State and Federal Advocacy at the American Academy of Ophthalmology, where he leads the development of data-driven policy arguments and provides legislative analysis and strategic counsel to support the Academy's advocacy initiatives.

One of his distinct strengths lies in utilizing data analytics and crafting compelling data visualizations to bolster public policy arguments and presentations. By leveraging these tools, he offers fresh strategic and tactical insights, enhancing the ability to shape policies that have a positive impact.

Now in his 28th year with the Academy, Mr. Levitt previously served as a policy analyst in the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research under Governor Pete Wilson, from 1991 to 1998. He holds a degree from Pitzer College, one of the Claremont Colleges, and is fluent in French.