

2021-
2023



ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

STRATEGIC PLAN

CONNECTING VA
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS
ACROSS THE NATION
Ensuring the highest quality eye care for
Veterans

AVAO.ORG

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2023

AVAO

The Association of Veterans Affairs Ophthalmologists is the premier network of VA Ophthalmology providers. Led by a dedicated core of experienced MDs from across the nation, we connect, educate, and advocate for VA physicians and the Veterans we serve.

VA

The Nation's largest healthcare system provides care for over 9 million enrolled veterans at 170 VA Medical Centers and 1074 VHA Outpatient Clinics

VA Ophthalmologists

Provided care in FY2020 for:

- 200K+ Veterans with Diabetic Retinopathy
- 200K+ Veterans with ARMD
- 300K+ Veterans with Dry Eye
- 400K+ Veterans with Glaucoma
- 900K+ Veterans with Cataract



AVAO MISSION

The Mission of AVAO is to Connect, Educate, and Advocate for VA Ophthalmologists and the Veterans we serve.

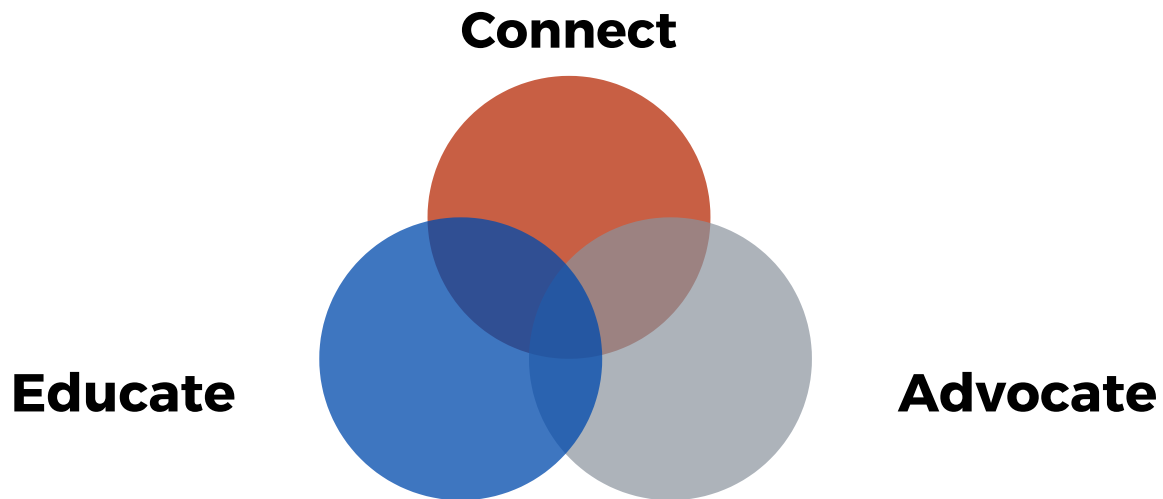
AVAO VISION

A VA system sought out by ophthalmologists for fulfilling careers and by Veterans for the highest level of eye care as a result of an interconnected community of VA Ophthalmologists who share best practices and advocate for patients, colleagues, and the profession.



ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

3 AVAO PRIORITIES



CONNECT:

Goal

To expand the VA ophthalmology community through networking opportunities and access to professional development resources.

Objective 1

Expand and enhance engagement, collaboration and communication with and between AVAO members and the broader ophthalmology community

Strategies

- Offer quarterly meetings for networking & topics of interest
 - CME
 - Technician training
- Create easily accessible Directory of VA Ophthalmologists
 - Location
 - Subspecialty
- Enhance collaboration between AVAO, AAO, AUPO, ARVO, and other subspecialty and state societies

Objective 2

Support VA ophthalmologists' growth and leadership development

Strategies

- Establish mentoring program to connect VA ophthalmologists with others in leadership
- Nominate AVAO members for participation in Leadership Development Programs through AAO, AUPO, ARVO and others
- Offer meetings and webinars on relevant topics for career advancement
- Provide resources for staff development and education

EDUCATE

Goal

To promote continuous learning and skill-sharing for ophthalmologists throughout the VA

Objective 3

Create a repository of relevant resources for VA ophthalmologists

Strategies

- Create an AVAO website that is user-friendly with curated content for AVAO members
 - VA Pulse resources
 - Frequently requested directives, SOPs, and other forms & documents
- Frequently update content to ensure continued accuracy and relevance

Objective 4

Create Toolkits for VA Ophthalmologists in various career stages

Strategies

- Establish Task Forces of VA ophthalmologists to assemble toolkits
 - What every VA ophthalmologist needs to know
 - Tools for Supervisors/Chiefs/Leaders
 - Other topics as requested by membership
- Make toolkits accessible via AVAO website

ADVOCATE

Goal

To promote a VA system that enhances the career development and wellbeing of VA ophthalmologists and preserves the sight and empowers the lives of the Veterans we serve.

Objective 5

Increase awareness of issues facing VA physicians, especially ophthalmologists

Strategies

- Work closely with other professional societies to make sure:
 - ophthalmology is supported within the VA
 - VA issues are at the forefront
- Advocate for Ophthalmology physician pay to reach the same level as other surgical and procedural subspecialties

Objective 6

Ensure safe, high-quality eye care for our Veteran patients

Strategies

- Work closely with VA leadership to make sure:
 - VA policy adequately accounts for the education and training of providers
 - Patient safety and quality care is prioritized within VA
- Sponsor a trainee as Advocacy Ambassador to annual Mid Year Forum

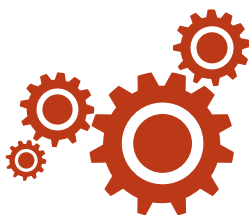
Objective 7

Enhance the quality and efficacy of medical, graduate medical, and continuing medical education within VA

Strategies

- Work closely with AUPO to ensure the critical role of VA in physician education is recognized and supported
- Increase VA Ophthalmologist presence in AUPO leadership

CALL TO ACTION



Volunteer for a Task Force



Join AVAO



Contact your AVAO Board