

CURRICULUM VITAE

Melanie Akau, O.D., F.A.A.O.

Clinical Instructor, Optometrist
Department of Ophthalmology
Medical Director of Staff Education
Neuro-Ophthalmology Collaborative Care Team
Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center
University of Colorado Hospital, Anschutz Medical Campus

Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center, Anschutz Medical Campus
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Aurora, CO 80045

Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center, LoDo (primary location)
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www.eyeinstitute.org

PREDOCTORAL EDUCATION

2003-2008 Undergraduate: Bachelor of Music, Violin Performance, Summa cum laude
The University of Texas at Austin, Butler School of Music
Austin, TX

2008-2012 Optometry: Doctor of Optometry with Honors in Clinical Research
University of California Berkeley, School of Optometry
Berkeley, CA

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING

2012-2013 Residency: Ocular Disease and Primary Care
West Roxbury Veterans Affairs Hospital, Boston, MA

2013-2015 Research Fellowship: Optometric Research Fellow
Jamaica Plain Veterans Affairs Hospital, Boston MA

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2013-2015 Adjunct Assistant Professor of Optometry, Primary Care, New England College of
Optometry, Boston, MA

2017- Clinical Instructor, Faculty, School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus

2022- Medical Director of Staff Education

EMPLOYMENT

2007-2009 Optometric Technician & Receptionist, Innovative Eyecare, Austin, TX

2009-2012 Lab Assistant, Sight Enhancement Lab at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

2013-2014 Optometrist, Hamel Eye Associates, Peabody, MA

2013-2015 Optometrist, Compensation and Pension, Boston VA Hospital, Boston, MA
 2015-2016 Optometrist, Nashua Eye Associates, Nashua, NH, Hudson, NH, Milford, NH
 2016-2017 Optometrist, Paris Eye Care, Waltham, MA

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

2012-2017 Optometrist License, Therapeutics & Glaucoma, Pennsylvania (inactive)
 2013-2017 Optometrist License, Therapeutics, Massachusetts (inactive)
 2015-2017 Optometrist License, Therapeutics & Glaucoma, New Hampshire (inactive)
 2017- Optometrist License, Therapeutics & Glaucoma, Colorado (active)

HOSPITAL STAFF MEMBERSHIP

2012-2015 Boston Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Boston, MA

HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

2003 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship
 2003-2008 David & Mary Green Chair Scholarship, Butler School of Music
 2003-2008 Non-Resident Tuition Waiver, Butler School of Music
 2008 UCBSO Incentive Award
 2008-2012 UCBSO Departmental Scholarship
 2009 UCBSO Service Award
 2009-2012 Beta Sigma Kappa Honors Society
 2010 Walman Optical Company Scholarship
 2010 Dorothy Bates Searls Endowment
 2011 UCBSO Service Award
 2011 Dr. Stanley Pearle OneSight Scholarship
 2011 Carl Zeiss Vision Fellow, American Optometric Foundation
 2011 Robert Greenwood Private Practice Patient Management Award
 2012 UC Optometry Alumni Ocular Disease Professional Student Support Fund
 2012 Alcon Primary Care Award – Tang Eye Center
 2012 Gold Retinoscope Award – UC Berkeley School of Optometry
 2013- Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2012-2017 Massachusetts Society of Optometrists
 2013- American Academy of Optometry
 2017- Colorado Optometric Association
 2017- American Optometric Association

ADMINISTRATIVE, COMMITTEE, AND SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

Community

2008 Volunteer, vision screenings, Suitcase Clinic, Berkeley, CA
 2009 Volunteer, Blind Babies Foundation & Guide Dogs for the Blind
 2011 Volunteer, vision screenings, Remote Area Medical (RAM) Volunteer Corps
 2013, 2014 Volunteer, vision screenings, Operation Stand Down, Boston VAMC

Other

- 2008-2012 Volunteer, UCBSO Admit Day, Interview Day, Foresight Pre-Optometry
Fall Conference, National Student Leadership Conference
- 2010 UCBSO Admissions Committee Member

Staff Education Activities

- 2022 Rocky Mountain Ophthalmic Personnel's symposium, *Neuro Ophthalmology Collaborative Care Team: Common Referrals*
- 2022 Administrative Staff lecture, *Common Neuro-Ophthalmic Conditions*
- 2022 Co-presentation with Prem Subramanian, MD, Ophthalmology Symposium
- 2022 - Staff education committee
Development of 12 month program about eye clinic services and sub-specialties
- 2022-2023 Completed a 4-session refraction workshop to reach ophthalmology technicians in a one-on-one tech/doctor ratio to assess their clinical skills and thought process
- 2023 Ophthalmic Assistant Academy, *Introduction and tour of the exam room*
- 2023 Lensometry training with senior preceptor technicians
- 2023 Ophthalmic Assistant Academy, *Anatomy of the eye and Introduction to the eye clinic faculty*
- 2023 Ophthalmic Assistant Academy, Lensometry
- 2023 Planned and executed the First annual Ophthalmic Technician Symposium, internal
- 2023 - Scribe training
- 2024 Planned and executed the Second annual Ophthalmic Technician Symposium, local

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT

- 2014 Beta Sigma Kappa Research Fellowship Awardee
- 2019 - 2021 Lens Opacities Classification System, Version III (LOCS III)
Certification, Chylack Inc.
- 2019 - 2021 Clinical Trial, Optometrist. *Multicenter, randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled two stage study to characterize the efficacy, safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of GZ/SAR402671 in patients at risk of rapidly progressive Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD).*
Sanofi sponsor.
- 2021 - University of Colorado Retina Research Group, AMD Registry

PUBLICATIONS

1. Deyue Yu, Melanie M. Akau, Susana T.L. Chung. "The mechanism of word crowding." *Vision Research*. Volume 52, Issue 1. 61-69.
2. Akau, M. "The Art and Science of Referrals." *Modern Optometry/CollaborativeEye*. July/August 2019.
3. Podcast on *The MOD Pod*, Episode 6. "The Art and Science of Referrals." August 20, 2019.

CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

Local

1. Akau, MMU. *The Dizzying World of Double Vision*. Rocky Mountain Ophthalmic Personnel. June 2018.

2. Akau, MMU. *Neuro-Ophthalmic Emergencies*. Northern Colorado Optometric Society. COPE Course ID: 61375-NO. March 2019.
3. Akau, MMU. *Optic Neuritis beyond MS: NMO and MOG*. Denver Metro Optometric Society. January 2021, 2 hour COA CE lecture.
4. Akau, MMU. *Ocular Motilities*. UCHealth Technician Preceptor meeting. March 2021
5. Akau, MMU. *Ocular Motilities*. JCAHPO (Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology) lecture. 1 hour CE credit. June 25, 2021.
6. Akau, MMU, Subramanian, P. *My Patient Sees Double - What Now?! 25th Annual Ophthalmology Symposium*, Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center, Anschutz Medical Campus - University of Colorado. September 10, 2021.
7. Akau, MMU. *Homonymous visual field defect in the setting of negative neuro-imaging*. Ophthalmology Symposium, Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center, Anschutz Medical Campus - University of Colorado. September 16, 2022.
8. Akau, MMU. *Extraocular motility: Evaluation and Documentation*. IJCAHPO lecture, 1 hour CE credit. 2nd Annual Ophthalmic Technician Symposium. Aurora, CO, September 6, 2024.
9. Akau, MMU. *Pupils: Anatomy & APDs*. IJCAHPO lecture, 1 hour CE credit. February 21 and 28, 2025
10. Akau, MMU. *Optic Neuritis beyond MS: NMO and MOG*. Southern Colorado Optometric Society. March 2025, 1 hour COA CE lecture.

National

1. Akau, MMU, Fanciullo, L. *Complete Bilateral External Ophthalmoplegia*. American Academy of Optometry Meeting, Phoenix, AZ. October 2012. [poster]
2. Akau, MMU, Fanciullo, L. *MVA Related Concussion Confounds Diagnosis of Lyme Encephalomyelitis*. SECO annual meeting, Atlanta, GA. March 2013. [poster]
3. Akau, MMU, Fanciullo, L. *It's a Crisis! A Case Report and Review of Hypertensive Crisis and Hypertensive Retinopathy*. SECO annual meeting, Atlanta, GA. March 2014. [poster]
4. Akau, MMU. *A Tragic Case of Perioperative Vision Loss*. American Academy of Optometry, Grand Rounds Lecturer, Denver, CO. November 2014. [presentation]
5. Akau, MMU. *From Front to Back: Pigmented Lesions of the Anterior and Posterior Segment*. Boston VA Teleretinal Imaging Lecture. May 2015. [national tele-presentation]

Resident Education Lectures

1. Akau, MMU. *Complete Bilateral External Ophthalmoplegia*. Boston VA Hospital, Grand Rounds. September 2012. [presentation]
2. Akau, MMU. *The Many Faces of 7: A Theme and Variations on a Facial Palsy*. Boston VA Hospital, Grand Rounds. April 2013. [presentation]
3. Akau, MMU. *A Case of the Vanishing Christmas Lights*. Boston VA Hospital Grand Rounds. April 2015. [presentation]
4. Akau, MMU. *Ophthalmic Optics*. Ophthalmology Residents, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
5. Akau, MMU. *Comprehensive Eye Exam*. Ophthalmology Residents, 2023, 2024

SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

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| 2010 | Deyue Yu, Melanie M.U. Akau, Susana T.L. Chung. The mechanism of word crowding. Vision Sciences Society annual meeting. Naples, FL. |
| 2011 | Akau, MMU, Deyue Yu, Susana T.L. Chung. The dioptric effect of blur on |

sight-reading music. American Academy of Optometry annual meeting.
San Francisco, CA. [poster]

- 2014 Optimizing the Use of the Macula in Glaucoma. Co-moderator for Scientific Session. American Academy of Optometry annual meeting. Denver, CO.
- 2015 Akau, MMU. Influence of Fovea-Disc Angle on Intra- and Interocular RNFL and Macular Thickness Symmetry in Normal Eyes. American Academy of Optometry annual meeting. New Orleans, LA. [Hybrid poster & presentation]

VIOLINIST

- Certified Suzuki Method Violin Instructor, Book 1 to 4
- 1999-2017 Free Lance Chamber Musician and Soloist for events: weddings, engagements, cocktail parties, dinner celebrations
- 2012 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Summer Philharmonic Orchestra
- 2013 Principal Second Violinist, MetroWest Opera production of "Carmen", Weston, MA
- 2013-2017 Acting Principal Second Violinist, Brookline Symphony Orchestra, Brookline MA
- 2024 Anschutz Medical Center Orchestra, violin
- 2024 - Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, first violin section