**CURRICULUM VITAE**

***Kara Hanson, O.D., F.A.A.O.***

*Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology*

*University of Colorado School of Medicine*

*Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center;* Mail Stop F731

1675 Aurora Court

Aurora, CO 80045

[kara.hanson@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:kara.hanson@cuanschutz.edu)

Ph: 720-848-2500; Fax: 720-848-4043

**EDUCATION:**

* B.A. 1987: Speech/Communications. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
* O.D. 1998: Optometry. University of Houston, Houston, TX

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (CUSOM)Aurora, CO

Department of Ophthalmology

* 2005: Instructor, part time
* 2010: Clinical Assistant Professor, part time
* 2014: Assistant Professor, full time
* 2021: Associate Professor, full time

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY (UHCO) Houston, TX

* 1999-2001: Part-time Clinical Faculty
* 2001-2005: Clinical Assistant Professor

**HOSPITAL STAFF APPOINTMENTS:**

* 2005: University of Colorado Hospital (UCH), Aurora CO
* 2020: Children’s Hospital Colorado (CHC), Aurora, CO

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**

KARA HANSON, OD, PC Denver, CO

* 1/2007-1/2014: President, Chief Executive Officer
* Founded optometry clinic exclusively specializing in low vision rehabilitation
* Established all administrative and patient care protocols
* Responsible for business administration
* Created marketing tools and provided outreach seminars to interested groups
* Worked with state agencies to obtain services for qualifying patients

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (NMSBVI)

* 2007 – 2010: Consultant
* Assisted NMSBVI staff in creating and implementing their Mobile Low Vision Clinic for students in grades K – 12
  + Created list of necessary equipment to be ordered and respective vendors
  + Established patient care protocols
  + Recruited and trained in-state optometrist to perform low vision evaluations
  + Mentored in-state optometrist in performing low vision evaluations
  + Clinics occurred 2-3 times per year for two days, serving 12 – 18 students per clinic

**HONORS, SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:**

* 2004 UHCO Commencement Ceremony, Hooding of candidates
* 2004 Fellow, American Academy of Optometry
* 2008 Volunteer Service Award – Colorado Optometric Association
* 2011 American Optometric Association’s Healthy Eyes, Healthy People grant recipient
* 2024 Connections Award – Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AERBVI). Recognizes cooperative efforts that cross organization lines/groups, working collaboratively to benefit the BVI field.

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

American Academy of Optometry (AAOpt)

International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation (ISLRR)

American Optometric Association (AOA)

Colorado Optometric Association (COA)

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS, COMMITTEES AND SERVICE:**

CUSOM, DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

* 2005 – present: Director, Low Vision Rehabilitation Service
  + Established all administrative and patient care protocols of this service
  + Created marketing tools and provided outreach seminars to interested groups
  + Performed functional evaluations, provided training and prescribed low vision devices for visually impaired patients
  + Worked with state agencies to obtain services for qualifying patients
  + Founded the Anchor Center low vision clinic serving preschoolers who are blind or visually impaired
  + Collaborated with CHC’s in-patient rehabilitation department to perform functional vision consultations with their patients to provide guidance for treatment plans as needed.
* 2023 – present: Low Vision Specialist, Colorado Department of Education’s Low Vision

Evaluation Clinic.

* + Our department is under contract with CDE to provide low vision exams for Colorado students K-12. There are typically 7-8 clinics held yearly throughout the state. The low vision specialist is paired with a teacher certified in visual impairments to perform evaluations and provide optical and non-optical strategies to enhance visually impaired students’ abilities to access their education from both an optometric and educational perspective.
  + Helped to create exam protocols, exam form and low vision summary report template to work toward electronic record-keeping.
  + Monitored equipment inventory and device ordering.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

* 2018 – 2023: *ISLRR Vision 2023 International Conference*
  + In-person multidisciplinary conference held in July 2023 offered 89 hours (3.5 days) of continuing education to over 500 attendees from 30 countries
  + Involved in fact-finding and decision-making process to proceed with preparing initial bid to host the conference
  + Local Organizing Committee member
    - Became LOC chair after our founding chairperson resigned due to poor health
    - Oversaw all subcommittee work
      * Accessibility
      * Continuing Education
      * Destination Management Company
      * Gala/Events
      * Graphic Design
      * Marketing, Communications
      * Scientific Review Committee
      * Sponsorship/Fund-raising
* 2005 – present: COA Low Vision Committee member
  + Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation liaison
  + Author/co-author of several articles pertaining to optometric low vision care for monthly COA newsletter
* 2012 – 2014: COA Board of Trustees member

STATE GOVERNMENT

* 2007 – 2011: Colorado Commission for Individuals Who are Blind or Visually Impaired
  + Commissioner

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

* 2023 – present: Vision Council, Low Vision Division Advisory Board
* 2010 – present: See the Future Fund - Scholarships for the blind/visually impaired
  + Selections Committee member
    - Review and rank applicants’ essays, SAT/ACT scores, transcripts yearly
    - Determine scholarship amounts for each applicant
* 2018 – present: A Shared Vision: Partners in Pediatric Blindness and Visual Impairment
  + Advisory Board member
* 2006 - 2019: A3, non-profit agency providing services for blind/visually impaired seniors
  + Provided seminars, lectures and/or served as keynote speaker 3-4 times per year for support groups and local conferences
  + 2016 Medication Reconciliation Program committee member
* 2017: Vision Coalition advisor
  + Work group consisting of educators and ancillary professionals that work with blind/visually impaired students

UHCO

* 2003-2005: Co-chair, Scholarship & Financial Aid Committee
* 2003: Quality Assurance Committee
* 2004: Co-chair, Student Recruitment Committee
* 2005: Center for Sight Enhancement Open House

**LICENSURE**

* 2005 – present: Colorado Optometry License
* 1998 – 2005: Texas Optometry License

**REVIEW AND REFEREE WORK**

* 2019 Restorative Neurology and Neuroscience. Reviewed paper 19-0928-R.
* 2018 Public Library of Science (PLOS) *One.* Reviewed paper PONE-D-18-33182.

**LECTURES PRESENTED:**

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

* 2025 Envision University Conference
  + *How to fit spectacle-mounted telescopes for successful use*
  + *Multi-disciplinary Panel Discussion: Screening for eccentric viewing training* (Co-presenters: Erika Andersen Ko, MEd, CLTV; Michelle Bianchi, OTR/L, CLVT; Donald Fletcher, MD; Melva Perez Andrews OTR, MBA, CLVT)
  + *Who will most likely benefit from eccentric viewing training?* (Co-presenters: Erika Andersen Ko, CLTV; Cade Oost, OD, MS)
* 2024 HCU (Homocystinuria) Conference 2024
  + *Navigating low vision throughout the lifespan*
* 2023 14th International Conference on Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation:
  + *Bioptics for beginners: How to fit bioptic telescopes for distance activities.*
* 2021 American Academy of Optometry Workshop (co-presenter: Swati Modi, OD):
  + *Bioptics for beginners: How to fit bioptic telescopes for distance activities.*
* 2020 American Academy of Optometry Workshop (co-presenter: Swati Modi, OD):
  + *Bioptics for beginners: How to fit bioptic telescopes for distance activities.* (Accepted for presentation; however, all workshops were cancelled due to COVID-19)
* 2017 American Academy of Optometry Annual Meeting:
  + *Look Ma, no hands! Fitting spectacle-mounted telescopes*
* 2016 Envision Conference (co-presenter: Amy Dobbs, OTR):
  + *I Spy with my Little Eye: Optical & Non-Optical Strategies to Enhance Functional Mobility*

REGIONAL LEVEL

* 2024 28th Annual Ophthalmology Symposium, CUSOM:
  + Functional Implications of Anterior Segment Disease & Easy Ideas that May Help
* 2018 22nd Annual Ophthalmology Symposium, CUSOM:
  + *Microperimetry: Not Your Father’s Amsler Grid!*
* 2016 Rocky Mountain Ophthalmic Personnel Regional Meeting:
  + *Understanding Low Vision*
* 2015  19th Annual Ophthalmology Symposium, CUSOM:
  + *Driving with Homonymous Hemianopia*
* 2015 Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists Regional Meeting:
  + *Driving and Low Vision*
* 2015 American Association of Certified Orthoptists Joint Regional Conference:
  + *Low Vision Rehabilitation – Maximizing Functional Vision*
* 2014  18th Annual Ophthalmology Symposium, CUSOM:
  + *Statutory Blindness & Disability*
* 2010  14th Annual Ophthalmology Symposium, CUSOM:
  + *The Implantable Miniature Telescope*
* 2009 Continuing Education for Occupational Therapists:
  + *Caring for the Visually Impaired*
* 2008 Collaborative Assistive Technology Conference:
  + *Low Vision through the Ages* Co-presenter
* 200711th Annual Ophthalmology Symposium, CUSOM:
  + *To Drive or not to Drive? Counseling the Visually Impaired Patient*
* 2006  10th Annual Ophthalmology Symposium, CUSOM:
  + *Vision Rehabilitation: An essential part of providing full scope of care to your patients*
* 2004 Texas Region IV Education Service Center Conference:
  + *Advantages and Limitations of Optical Devices and Practical Applications*
* 2003 Low Vision Therapist Certification Course, Houston, TX:
  + *Advantages and Limitations of Optical Devices and Practical Applications*

STATE LEVEL

* 2025 Colorado Department of Education CE Conference:
  + *Optical Devices to Enhance Orientation and Mobility*
* 2024 Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation:
  + *Interpretation of Eye Report Data*
* 2020 CO Division of Vocational Rehabilitation State Meeting:
  + *Driving with Low Vision*
* 2018 UCHealth System Rehabilitation Symposium (co-presenter: Amy Dobbs, OTR):
  + *Low Vision Rehabilitation at UCHealth Eye Center*
* 2017 CO Division of Vocational Rehabilitation State Meeting:
  + *Etiologies of Deaf-Blindness: Visual Aspects*
* 2015 Colorado Department of Education CE Conference:
  + *I Spy with my Little Eye: Optical Devices to Enhance Orientation & Mobility*
* 2014 Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation:
  + *Interpretation of Eye Report Data*
* 2008 Colorado Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired:
  + *Summary of care provided by low vision specialists*
* 2007 NM Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Visually Impaired:
  + *Advantages and Limitations of Optical Devices and Practical Applications*
  + *The Low Vision Functional Evaluation*
* 2007 CO Division of Vocational Rehabilitation State Meeting:
  + *Interpretation of Eye Report Data*
* 2006 CO Division of Vocational Rehabilitation State Meeting:
  + *Ocular Anatomy Review*
* 2005 Texas Commission for the Blind, Eye/Medical Training:
  + *Low Vision Device Options*
* 2004 Texas Commission for the Blind, Eye/Medical Training:
  + *The Primary Care Eye Exam*

LOCAL LEVEL

* 2019 UCHealth Rehabilitation Symposium (co-presenter: Amy Dobbs, OTR/L):
  + *Low Vision Rehabilitation at UCHealth Eye Center*
* 2014 UCHealth Rehabilitation Symposium (co-presenter: Amy Callan, DOT):
  + *Low Vision Rehabilitation: who, what,* *when, where and why?*
* 2010 Centers for People with Disabilities:
  + *The Low Vision Evaluation: how it differs from your typical eye exam*

UNIVERSITY LEVEL

* 2013 CUSOM Department of Ophthalmology Grand Rounds:
  + *Incorporating occupational therapy into low vision rehabilitation practice*
* 2009 CUSOM Geriatric Grand Rounds:
  + *Vision Rehabilitation: An essential part of providing full scope of care to your patients*
* 2004 Bemidji State and St Cloud State Universities’ Pre-health Professionals’ Groups:
  + *Vision Rehabilitation: Helping the “Blind” to See*
* 2003 Geriatric Optometry Course Lecture: *Cataracts*
* 2001 UHCO Grand Rounds and New Developments: *Intraocular Foreign Body*
* 2001 UHCO 3rd Year Interactive Grand Rounds: The *Case of the Low Vision Patient*
* 1998 UHCO Grand Rounds and New Developments:
  + *Non-secreting Pituitary Adenoma*

**TEACHING:**

CUSOM

**Department of Ophthalmology Basic Science Course Series**: Developed and/or coordinated one 3-hour session per year for ophthalmology residents and pediatric optometry fellow pertaining to blindness, visual impairment, and low vision rehabilitation

* *2025* Four-speaker lecture and workshop:
  + *Driving with low vision*
* 2023 Three-speaker lecture and workshop:
  + *Low Vision Services Across the Life Span*
  + *Orientation and Mobility activity*
* 2022 Grand Rounds guest speaker followed by review
  + *Understanding the Invisibility of Scotomas*
  + *Three-person panel discussing cases related to visual field defects and driving*
* 2021 Three-speaker lecture and workshop:
  + *Driving with Visual Impairment*
* 2020 Four-speaker panel discussion:
  + *Living with Blindness or Visual Impairment*
* 2019 Three-speaker lecture and workshop:
  + *Orientation & Mobility: Sighted Guide, Cane Travel, and Guide Dogs*
* 2017 Four-speaker lecture:
  + *Driving; Social Security Disability/Statutory Blindness: Federal Law; Pediatric Low Vision Services: Federal Law; Veteran’s Administration Low Vision Services*
* 2016 Five-speaker lecture:
  + *Low Vision Services from* *Cradle to Grave*

**Foundations of Doctoring Instructor** (2017, 2019): Small group instruction regarding the basics of examining the eye, important signs/symptoms of urgent and emergent ocular conditions, and ocular manifestations of systemic diseases

CUSOM CLINICAL TEACHING

2005 – present: Supervision and clinical teaching of PGY2 ophthalmology residents in low vision rehabilitation clinic, 4-8 hours/week

2015 – present: Supervision and clinical teaching of pediatric optometry fellow at Anchor Center Low Vision Clinic, 4 hours per month (2016, 2017 omitted due to leadership change at Anchor Center Preschool)

2019 – present: Supervision and clinical teaching of PGY1 ophthalmology residents in low vision rehabilitation clinic, 4 hours every 2-4 weeks

UHCO

2001-2005 **Low Vision Procedures Lab** (OPTO 7162: 15-week course)

* + Conducted prelab lectures on clinical tests used with the visually impaired
  + Supervised one to two groups of 25 students during weekly two-hour lab
  + Administered proficiency exams

1999-2003 **Pediatrics Procedures Lab** (OPTO 6151: 15-week course)

* + Conducted prelab lectures on clinical tests used in the pediatric population
  + Supervised one to two groups of 25 students during weekly three-hour lab
  + Administered proficiency exams

2002 **Interim Course Master**

* + - Revised lab manual & organized equipment for each lab session
    - Supervised one group of 25 students during weekly three-hour lab
    - Communicated with 100 students & 6 teaching assistants
    - Recruited pediatric subjects to come in for students to perform developmental tests
    - Organized proficiency exams; scheduled students’ test times; posted grades, etc.

2001 **Clinical Procedures Lab III** (OPTO 5131: 15-week course)

* + Assisted in conducting prelab lectures on clinical tests used in primary care optometry
  + Supervised 25 students during weekly three-hour lab

UHCO CLINICAL TEACHING

* 1. Clinical attending: Supervised 3rd and 4th year optometry students in adult and pediatric primary care, contact lens, and low vision rehabilitation clinics. (6 – 8 half days per week)

2004-2005 Baylor College of Medicine Low Vision Clinic satellite clinic (1 day per week)

* Performed functional evaluations on visually impaired patients
  + Supervised and trained low vision rehabilitation resident
  + Worked with state agencies to obtain services for qualifying patients

**PUBLICATIONS/SCHOLARSHIP:**

PAPERS

1. KS Hanson, HE Bedell, JM White, MT Ukwade. *Comparison of Near and Distant Visual Acuity in patients with infantile nystagmus.* Optometry & Vision Science. 2006 Nov; 83(11):823-829. doi: 10.1097/01.opx.0000238650.33150.73
2. SL Chung, SH Jarvis, SY Woo, KS Hanson, RT Jose. *Reading Speed does not Benefit from Increased Line Spacing in AMD Patients.* Optometry & Vision Science. 2008 Sept; 85(9):827-833. doi: 10.1097/OPX.0b013e31818527ea
3. JL Patnaik, PE Pecen, KS Hanson, AM Lynch, JN Cathcart, FS Siringo, MT Mathias, M Mandava. *Driving and Visual Acuity in Patients with Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)*. Ophthalmol Retina. 2019 Apr;3(4):336-342. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oret.2018.11.004>
4. DC Lewerenz, KS Hanson, GR Hopkins. *Technical Report: A new method for determining image distance for stand magnifiers.* Optometry and Vision Science. December 2020; 97(12); 1048-1052. <https://doi.org/10.1097.OPX.0000000000001613>
5. JL Patnaik, AM Lynch, PE Pecen, M Jasso, KS Hanson, MT Mathias, AG Palestine, N Mandava. *The impact of advanced age-related macular degeneration and the National Eye Institute’s Visual Function Questionnaire-25.* Acta Ophthalmologica. Nov 2021. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/aos.14731>
6. LaRochelle, JL Patnaik, AM Lynch, N Mandava, KS Hanson. *Low vision referral patterns in intermediate age-related macular degeneration.* Current Eye Research. 2022. Vol 47 (12). <https://doi.org/10.1080/02713683.2022.2135104>
7. KA Abbott, KS Hanson, JL Patnaik. *Prevalence of Dry Eye in the Low Vision Population at the University of Colorado.* J of Optometry. November 2023. Vol 17(2). Article 100501. DOI: [10.1016/j.optom.2023.100501](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.optom.2023.100501)

BOOK CHAPTER

1. KS Hanson, DC Lewerenz, PS Subramanian. Springer 2020. Current Advances in Ophthalmic Technology. Chapter 9: Newer Techniques in Vision Restoration and Rehabilitation. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-9795-0>

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. KSHanson. *Low Vision Rehabilitation: Strategies for Assisting Patients who have Lost Vision to Glaucoma.* Glaucoma Today. Nov./Dec. 2009; Volume 7(8): 29-33.
2. KSHanson. *As Vision Dims: Current Perspectives on Managing Glaucoma Patients with Low Vision Rehabilitation.* Glaucoma Today. Nov/Dec 2017; Volume 15(6): 48-50.

SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

POSTER

1. *Objective and Subjective Effects of Enchroma***®** *Lenses on Color Vision in Observers with Color Deficiency.* Presented atAAOpt Oct. 2020.KS Hanson, S Nau, L Travernier, JL Patnaik.
2. *Unconventional Bioptic Telescope Spectacle for a Patient with Aphakia: A Case Report*. Presented at AAOpt Dec. 2004. KS Hanson.
3. *Relationship of Wettability and Comfort in Silicone Hydrogel Contact Lens Wearers.* Presented at AAOpt Dec. 2004. J. Liu, S Thota, P Ladage, S Quintero, K Parker, R Bynum, K Hanson, N Chagpar, D Perrigin, N Leach, J Bergmanson.
4. *Effect of line spacing on reading speed for continuous text in individuals with age-related macular degeneration.* Presented at AAOpt Dec. 2003*.* SL Chung, SY Woo, KS Hanson, RT Jose.

ORAL

1. *Low vision rehabilitation referral in patients with acquired monocular vision loss.* Presented at ARVO 2023. HH Chen, KS Hanson, JL Patnaik.
2. *Comparison of near and distant visual acuities in patients with nystagmus.* Presented at AAOpt Dec. 2002. KS Hanson, HE Bedell.

OTHER

1. *The impact of evidence-based design on patient satisfaction, staff satisfaction, and operational efficiency in an Eye Center.*  The Center for Health Design: Icons and Innovators Webinar Series September 2015.  Presenters: Melissa Piatkowski, Chris Klein.