

ADVOCACY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
MID-YEAR FORUM 2017**

April 26-29

Renaissance Downtown / Washington, D.C.

NOMINATION FORM

Instructions:

This nomination will be reviewed by leadership of the American Society of Retina Specialists. Please print legibly or type the information requested.

FELLOWSHIP PHYSICIAN DIRECTOR: PLEASE COMPLETE SECTION A

FELLOW NOMINEE: PLEASE COMPLETE SECTION B

DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPATION:

The American Academy of Ophthalmology is partnering with ophthalmic state, subspecialty and specialized interest societies and training programs to include members in training as special guests at the American Academy's Mid-Year Forum through its **Advocacy Ambassador Program**. In its pilot year of 2004, 14 Members in Training attended the Mid-Year Forum. In 2016, there were a record 164 Advocacy Ambassadors sponsored by training programs, and **47** societies - **37** state ophthalmology societies and **10** ophthalmic subspecialty/specialized interest societies – who attended the Mid-Year Forum.

As part of members in training participation in the American Academy's *Advocacy Ambassador Program*, participants are expected to return to their training programs and present their experiences to their colleagues. Following the Mid-Year Forum, the American Academy provides Advocacy Ambassadors with a template PowerPoint presentation which they can modify and add their personal experiences. **The \$200 Mid-Year Forum registration fee is waived for members in training.**

A. Congressional Advocacy Day – Dinner Briefing & Congressional Visits Wednesday, April 26 (Dinner Briefing) / Thursday April 27 (Congressional Visits)

Congressional Advocacy Day (CAD) begins with a dinner briefing on Wednesday April 26. At this briefing, residents will learn about the key priorities for ophthalmology and medicine which will prepare them for visits with U.S. senators, representatives and healthcare staff to present the concerns and positions of the Academy and the profession. These Congressional visits are arranged by the American Academy's Washington D.C. staff and are based on residents' home address zip code. When making these Congressional visits on Thursday, April 27, residents will be joined by ophthalmologists from their area who are leaders in ophthalmic state, subspecialty or specialized interest societies who will serve as their mentors during the visits. **Following the CAD dinner briefing on Wednesday, all Advocacy Ambassador Program participants are invited for a special briefing and reception with American Academy leaders to meet each other and discuss any questions they may have.**

B. Mid-Year Forum Sessions (Thursday, April 27 – Friday, April 28)

The *Opening Session* will be held at 3:30 pm on Thursday, April 27 following Congressional Advocacy Day visits. The Mid-Year Forum general sessions cover critical issues facing ophthalmology and also impart practical pearls for ophthalmologists to take back to their practices.

C. Council Meeting (Friday, April 28 – Saturday, April 29)

The Council serves as the advisory body to the Board of Trustees and provides recommendations for board action based on membership concerns. The Council is comprised of two groups: one representing state ophthalmology societies and another representing ophthalmic subspecialty and specialized interest societies. The Council brings recommendations to the Board via Council Advisory Recommendations (CARs). Following the Advocacy Ambassadors participation in the Friday, April 28th *Post Hill Visits Session for Advocacy Ambassadors*, they are encouraged to participate as guests in the remainder of the Council meeting on Friday and Saturday. The Council meeting will conclude at 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 29.

D. Social/Educational Events

Wednesday, April 26

- Advocacy Ambassadors are invited to a special briefing/reception directly following the conclusion of the Congressional Advocacy Day dinner briefing. Ambassadors will have a chance to meet and ask questions of American Academy and state society leaders as well as members of the American Academy's Young Ophthalmologist (YO) Committee and YO Advocacy Subcommittee.

Thursday, April 27

- Advocacy Ambassadors are invited to participate at the Thursday luncheon on Capitol Hill at the Reserve Officers Association following their scheduled Congressional visits.
- The American Academy will specifically recognize Advocacy Ambassadors as special guests in attendance at the Mid-Year Forum during the *Welcome Reception and Dinner* at the Renaissance Downtown. The evening will provide an opportunity for Advocacy Ambassadors to mingle with state and national leaders in ophthalmology as well as feature keynote speaker **Michelle Bernard**, a political analyst for MSNBC and Founder of The Bernard Center for Women, Politics & Public Policy. Ms. Bernard will discuss, *The View from Washington*. Following the dinner, Advocacy Ambassadors are extended a special invitation to attend the Surgical Scope Fund reception for significant contributors at a much reduced contribution level of \$50 (regular contribution is \$500).

Friday, April 28

- ***L.E.A.P. Forward Session for Advocacy Ambassadors (Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy, Practice Management)***

The purpose of this 3-hour session (9am-noon) is to **Inspire** and **Engage** Advocacy Ambassadors to be active **leaders** in their practice setting, community, state ophthalmology society, and national and international organizations. The Mid-Year Forum provides an ideal setting for Ambassadors to network and interact with active leaders in our field. The curriculum will provide interactive discussions in 4 major areas: **Leadership**, **Engagement**, **Advocacy**, and **Practice Management**.

Friday, April 28 (Cont.)

- ***Post Hill Visits Debrief Session for Advocacy Ambassadors***
Following their visits on Capitol Hill, Advocacy Ambassadors have the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with American Academy & state leaders as well as meet members of the American Academy's YO Committee and YO Advocacy Subcommittee.
- Advocacy Ambassadors are extended a special invitation to attend the OPHTHPAC reception for significant contributors at a reduced contribution of \$50 (regular contribution is \$500).

Saturday, April 29

- ***The Capitol Steps***
At the close of the Council meeting, the *Capitol Steps* will perform. Although not all of the current members of the Steps are former Capitol Hill staffers, taken together the performers have worked in a total of eighteen Congressional offices and represent 62 years of collective House and Senate staff experience. They are described as the group that puts the "mock in democracy" – a don't miss event.

SECTION A (to be completed by nominee)

Name of Nominee Undergoing Fellowship Training:

Nominee's Mailing Address:

Nominee's Phone: _____ Nominee's E-mail: _____

Nominee's FAX: _____

Please list the name(s) and the title(s) of the individuals submitting this nomination on behalf of your training program.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

If this fellow from my program is selected to participate in the *Advocacy Ambassador Program*, I agree for the fellow to give a presentation to colleagues regarding his/her experiences and lessons learned.

Signature of Fellowship Physician Director

Date

I. Please describe your interest in attending, as a special guest, the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Mid-Year Forum 2017 in Washington, D.C. via the *Advocacy Ambassador Program*.

- II. In a statement of 200 words or less, please indicate why you should be selected by the American Society of Retina Specialists to participate as a sponsored guest in the *Advocacy Ambassador Program* (The American Society of Retina Specialists agrees to cover economy airfare made within 30 days of meeting, lodging at the Renaissance Downtown, and related expenses). *Please attach your CV.*

(*Note: Participants attending the Mid-Year Forum must be members of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The Academy Member in Training membership application is available online at <http://www.aao.org/member/join/mit.cfm>)

If selected, I agree to:

- a. participate in **all** designated elements of the Mid-Year Forum.
- b. provide a presentation at my fellowship training program regarding my experiences and lessons learned at the Mid-Year Forum.
- c. provide the American Society of Retina Specialists with a brief synopsis of my experiences at the Mid-Year Forum.

Signature of Nominee Undergoing
Fellowship Training

Date

Please return the completed nomination form and CV January 9, 2017 to Jill Blim at jill.blim@asrs.org.