



ASSOCIATION OF CLINICIANS  
FOR THE UNDERSERVED

# VISION SERVICES COMMITTEE

2023-2024 MEMBER ROSTER

## Purpose

The ACU Vision Services Committee guides ACU's efforts to increase access to vision services in underserved areas. The Committee discusses current trends and issues impacting vision services at health centers including promising practices in integrating eye care into primary care settings, population-specific needs, clinical best practices, and more. Committee members also support the training and technical assistance needs of health centers working to establish and expand vision services by serving as mentors and subject matter experts. Committee initiatives will be consistent with the ACU mission, strategic plan, and/or direction provided by the Executive Director of ACU and the ACU Board.

## Committee Priorities

- Identify barriers patients face in accessing vision services.
- Identify opportunities for ACU to develop meaningful resources to support the needs of health centers establishing vision services.
- Provide technical assistance to support health centers integrating vision services into their primary care program.
- Serve as a mentor to support health center clinicians or administrators working to establish or expand vision services in their community.

For more information about ACU's Vision Services Committee, please reach out to Luke Ertle, Program Director, via email at [lertle@clinicians.org](mailto:lertle@clinicians.org).

# COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

**ASHLEY BURNS, OD**  
DIRECTOR OF OPTOMETRY  
COASTAL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER



Dr. Ashley Anderson Burns is a community optometrist who is dedicated to serving the underserved. She is a graduate of Indiana University School of Optometry and is currently the Director of Optometry at Coastal Family Health Center, located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Dr. Burns has been instrumental in expanding services and ensuring her patients receive the highest quality eye care, regardless of their ability to pay. Dr. Burns has served on the ACU Vision Services Committee since its inception in 2020 and is committed to the mission of expanding eye care access to those who need it most.

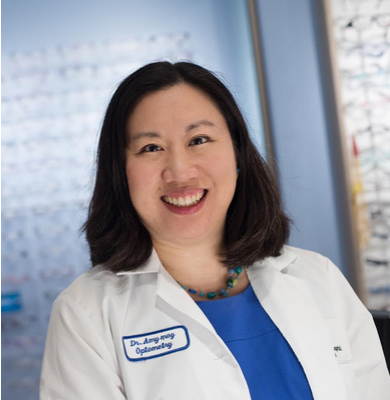
**KRISTIN WHITE, OD**  
DIRECTOR OF OPTOMETRY  
HEALTH CARE PARTNERS OF SOUTH  
CAROLINA



Dr. Kristin White is a graduate of New England College of Optometry. She is residency trained in community health optometry. Dr. White has a strong passion for providing eye care where it is most needed and has provided care on international clinics in Central and South America, on an Indian Reservation and in an underserved area of Boston, California and presently, South Carolina. She has started an optometry department within a rural, Native-American centered community health center in Northern California and an underserved area of South Carolina. Dr. White has lectured on the topic of creating optometry departments within community health centers through collaboration with the National Association of Community Health Centers, Prevent Blindness America and the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**AMY MOY, OD, FAAO, CPCO**  
**DIRECTOR OF HEALTH CENTER**  
**NETWORK**  
**NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**



Dr. Amy Moy is the Director of the Health Center Network of the New England College of Optometry (NECO), with the goal to make eye care accessible for all. She has 19 years of experience in community health optometry and was the Director of Optometry at the Martha Eliot Health Center. As NECO's certified Chief Compliance Officer, Dr. Moy leads quality assurance initiatives to ensure compliant patient care.

Dr. Moy is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and the National Academies of Practice. She actively serves in the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry as a member of the Clinical Affairs Committee and Clinic Directors Committee, as well as a co-moderator of the biannual Online Clinical Educators' Forum. She was the principal investigator for the Boston Latino Eye Study, and has presented nationally on interprofessional care, optometric education, care for patients with disabilities, and infection control. She was a principal co-writer for the READ grant, which provided eyeglasses and social stories for children with disabilities. She has chaired committees on compliance, quality assurance, and NECO's COVID response.

In her free time, Dr. Moy spends time with her family, advocates for children with disabilities, and has written "The Polka-Dotted Penguin," a children's book about kindness and celebrating differences.

**ANNA BRITT, OD**  
**OPTOMETRIST**  
**ALBANY AREA PRIMARY HEALTHCARE**



Dr. Anna Britt graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.S. in health promotion. She then attended Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN where she was SGA president and served as SCO's student representative to the Board of Trustees. She currently practices at Albany Area Primary Health Care, a rural community health center. Dr. Britt is also a live instructor for KMK, teaching pharmacology and ocular disease to students preparing for NBEO boards. She is passionate about teaching students as well as working in clinic to serve individuals of all ages and abilities. In her free time, she enjoys traveling!

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONT'D)

**ANGELA B ABRAHAM, OD**  
**DIRECTOR OF VISION SERVICES**  
**UMASS AMHERST HEALTH SERVICES**



Angela B. Abraham, O.D., joined University Health Services (UHS) as Director of Eye Care Services, one of the busiest departments at the campus health center in the fall of 2021. Eye Care Services provides vision care to students, faculty, and staff of the Five Colleges. She will also serve as UHS's Diversity Patient Advocate for patients with concerns about ethnic or racial discrimination.

Board certified by the Massachusetts Board of Optometry and South Carolina Board of Optometry, Dr Abraham came to UHS from Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center in Dorchester, MA, where she served as Director of Eye Care Services. Concurrently, she held the positions of Diversity and Inclusion Liaison and Clinical Assistant Professor at the New England College of Optometry in Boston. She was awarded the Nick Littlefield Health Policy Fellowship for 2017-2018 by the Network for Excellence in Health Innovation in Boston. Previous experience includes the roles of Director of Eye Care Services and Director of Residency in Community Health Optometry, The Dimock Center, Roxbury, Mass.; Associate Clinical Professor and Staff Optometrist at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology, Columbia, S.C.; and Chief of Optometry at Family Health Centers, Inc., Orangeburg, S.C.

Dr. Abraham is a member of the American Optometric Association, National Optometric Association, Massachusetts Society of Optometrists, National Association of Community Health Centers, and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

**DEBI SARMA, OD**  
**DIRECTOR OF EYE CARE SERVICES**  
**CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER**



Dr. Debi Sarma is a public health optometrist and community outreach specialist who helps high-need communities access eye and vision care support. After graduating from the New England College of Optometry, she went on to pursue a residency in community health optometry at DotHouse Health. She is currently the Director of Eye Care Services at Codman Square Health Center in Dorchester, MA. The health center is unique in the country as it houses the Codman Academy Public Charter school where 345 students from kindergarten through high school receive an education as well. Dr. Sarma has experience in public health, teaching, webinar development, national mobile eye clinic operations, regulation and compliance, school-based clinics, and clinical precepting.



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONT'D)

**ESSENCE JOHNSON, OD, FAAO**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/OPTOMETRIST**  
**BLACK EYECARE PERSPECTIVE**



Dr. Essence Johnson, is an “HBCU made,” residency trained community and correctional health optometrist. She earned her Doctor of Optometry degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University and completed a residency in Ocular Disease at Omni Eye Services of Atlanta. She is also a Fellow in the American Academy of Optometry and a Diplomate in the American Board of Optometry. A champion for diversity, equity and inclusion, Dr. Johnson received certificates in this area from Cornell University and the University of South Florida Muma College of Business. Dr. Johnson is the Executive Director of Black EyeCare Perspective and co-advisor to the Black EyeCare Perspective Pre-Optometry Club where they are redefining the eye care industry 1% at a time through advocacy, action and accountability. Dr. Johnson is also making a difference in the career paths of scholars and alumni as the Director of Healthcare Careers at Uplift Education.

**GREG STONE**  
**CEO**  
**PEACH TREE HEALTHCARE**

Bio forthcoming



# COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONT'D)

**JACOBI CLEAVER, OD, FAAO**  
**OPTOMETRIST**  
**BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**



Dr. Jacobi Cleaver received his Bachelor of Science in Biology along with a minor in Psychology from the University of Houston, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Vision Science and Doctor of Optometry from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. Dr. Cleaver completed a residency in primary care and ocular disease at the Thomas E. Creek VA Hospital in Amarillo, Texas. Currently, Dr. Cleaver serves as the staff optometrist for the Baylor College of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology, practicing at the Martin Luther King Jr. Health Clinic (Harris Health System), providing eyecare to the patients of Harris County.

Dr. Cleaver is a Fellow in the American Academy of Optometry and an active member of the Anterior Segment Section as well as the Academic Medical Center Optometrist Special Interest Group. Further involvement with the American Academy of Optometry includes being a part of the "See It. Believe It. Be It." Initiative committee, participation in the Fellows' Talk series and the Flom Leadership Course.

Dr. Cleaver is also the Director of Program Management of Black EyeCare Perspective and the co-founder and co-advisor of the Black EyeCare Perspective Pre-Optometry Club where they are redefining the color of the eyecare industry 1% at a time by creating a pipeline for Black students into optometry and cultivating and fostering lifelong relationship between Black eyecare professionals, the industry and their communities.

**JILL SCULLION, OD, MBA**  
**VICE PRESIDENT, HEALTH CARE SERVICES**  
**ENVOLVE/CENTENE**



Jill Scullion, OD, MBA is the Vice President of Health Care Services at Envolve Benefit Options, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Centene Corporation. Her responsibilities include oversight of clinical policy, member health, utilization management and credentialing quality assurance accreditations. Dr. Scullion earned her Doctorate of Optometry degree from The Ohio State University College of Optometry and Masters in Business Administration from North Carolina State University. Dr. Scullion is the founder and president of Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity – North Carolina, a non-profit organization that collaborates with Rotary and Lions Clubs to provide vision care to the underserved. She lives in Carolina Beach, North Carolina, and is a member of the Southeastern District of the North Carolina Optometric Society.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONT'D)

**JOHN FUSSELMAN, OD**  
**CLINIC DIRECTOR**  
**SUNCOAST COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
**CENTER**



John Fusselman, O.D. completed his undergraduate studies in Miami, FL before receiving his Doctorate in Optometry and Bachelors of Science in Optometry from the New England College of Optometry in Boston, MA. Upon graduation, he moved back to Florida and pursued practicing optometry in many different modalities: commercial settings, ophthalmology clinics and private offices. While working in these clinics he realized that patients many patients were asked to complete forms in English, a language they could not read. Recognizing this was poor patient care, Dr. Fusselman opened the first fully bilingual optometry practice in Central Florida. In 2015, Dr. Fusselman was approached to help develop a comprehensive vision service program for a new expansion of an FQHC in Central Florida, patients with diabetes would be monitored for retinopathy at home. Previously, there was just one optometry clinic in an FQHC in Florida.

**KIRSTEN THOMSEN, PA**  
**ADJUNCT CLINICAL ASSISTANT**  
**PROFESSOR**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND**  
**ACU BOARD MEMBER**



Kirsten moved to Maine in 2010 from Washington DC where she was faculty at George Washington University PA Program since 2003, served with Emergency Medical Reserve Corps (sent to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina) and headed up the Healthcare for the Homeless community service team at GW. Prior to DC she lived in New Mexico for 13 years, practiced family medicine/urgent care in Albuquerque and served 5 years (2 as chair) on the NM Board of Medicine PA Advisory Committee. Hired by The University of New Mexico School of Medicine in 1994 she developed and implemented the first PA program for the state, was faculty in the department of Family and Community Medicine and the first director of the UNM PA program.

Active on the local, state and national level with healthcare and policy issues, as well as with professional PA organizations, she also served on the board of directors of numerous organizations among them: Physician Assistant Education Association, NMAPA, DCAPA, and MEAPA. She has had articles published on healthcare and professional issues and has presented on these issues at national and international conferences.

In 1996 she was selected to do a U.S. Public Health Service Primary Care Policy Fellowship in Washington DC and served twice as president of its interdisciplinary alumni organization, the Society of Primary Care Policy Fellows. Thomsen has served as Ambassador for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) since 2003, Commissioner on the National Commission of Vision and Health (NCVH), national CHIPRA Expert Panel, faculty at UNE until June 2012, Maine Health Policy Study Group, among others and as AAPA HOD delegate or alternate since 1992.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONT'D)

**LINDSEY KING, OD**  
OUTREACH OPTOMETRIST  
HEALTH PARTNERS OF WESTERN  
OHIO



Dr. Lindsey King is a graduate of The Ohio State University College of Optometry. She has a deep passion for extending comprehensive eye care to those in underserved communities and those with limited access to care. She has helped build the full scope vision care practice at Family Health Services of Darke County where she served as Co Director of the Eyecare department from its inception in 2016 through March 2023. She then made the move to Health Partners of Western Ohio in April of 2023. Here she is the outreach optometrist in the Lima, Ohio area. She has always loved working with children and will be able to foster that by expanding vision services into Health Partners' already existing outreach program in the Lima area schools. She is active in providing benefits to patients through Prevent Blindness America, Changing Lives Through Lenses, The InfantSee Program and The Ohio Optometric Association's RealEyes Program. Dr. King is honored and excited to continue learning how we as an optometric community can continue caring for our underserved patients by working with the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved on the ACU's Vision Services Committee.

**MARY KATE WALTERS, OD,  
FAAO**  
CLINIC DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR OF  
PRACTICE  
NORTHSIDE EYE CARE CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COLLEGE  
OF OPTOMETRY



Originally from Brenham, Texas, Dr. Mary Kate Sain attended Texas A&M University for undergraduate studies and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Education and Development. She received her Doctor of Optometry from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN and then completed an ocular disease residency at the Community Eye Clinic in Fort Worth, TX.

Currently, Dr. Sain serves as a Professor of Practice at the University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO). She is the Clinic Director of the Northside Eye Care Center in Fort Worth. A partnership clinic of UHCO located inside of a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC) that serves the under-privileged patients of the Tarrant County community and is a student externship site for UHCO.

Dr. Sain is a licensed Therapeutic Optometrist and Glaucoma Specialist, a Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry and a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. She serves on numerous optometric committees at the local and state level, is the Co-Leader for the Health Professionals and Outcomes Workgroup on the Texas Diabetes Council, is an Advisory Board member for the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth, provides educational seminars to the public regarding eye health and delivers Continuing Education lectures to colleagues. Dr. Sain remains an active member of the Tarrant County Optometric Society, Texas Optometry Association, American Optometric Association, American Academy of Optometry, and Texas Public Health Vision Care Section among other organizations. Her favorite part of practicing is being able to help patients of all ages achieve their visual needs as well as helping students become excellent doctors of optometry.



# COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONT'D)

**MEGAN FILADELFO, OD**  
DIRECTOR OF OPTOMETRY  
HOLYOKE HEALTH CENTER  
NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF  
OPTOMETRY



Dr. Filadelfo is an Assistant Professor at the New England College of Optometry (NECO). She has been the Director of the Vision Center at the Holyoke Health Center since it partnered with NECO in 2016. Dr. Filadelfo received her degree in optometry from Indiana University School of Optometry in 2012 and completed her residency in Primary Care and Ocular Disease at the Providence VA in Rhode Island in 2013. She is a member of the American Optometric Association, Massachusetts Society of Optometrists, and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

**REBECCA CHOWN, OD**  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF  
OPTOMETRY



Dr. Rebecca Chown is an assistant professor at Pacific University College of Optometry and the current Director of Community Outreach. She is the immediate past president of Oregon Foundation for Vision Awareness; the not for profit branch of Oregon Optometric Physicians Association helping underserved Oregonians access vision services.

Dr. Chown received her doctorate of optometry from Pacific University College of Optometry in 2003. She then served as a Captain in the United States Air Force for 3 years at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL, followed by 3 years at the Portland International Air Reserve Base. Dr. Chown's practice experience includes owning and practicing at Indian Creek Family Eye Care; being an assistant professor at Oregon Health and Sciences University's Casey Eye Institute; and being the sole owner of a Medicaid only vision clinic in Vancouver, Washington.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONT'D)

**ROCHELLE NEUTRA, FNP, MSN**  
**CENTER FOR VISION AND**  
**POPULATION HEALTH**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**PREVENT BLINDNESS**

Bio forthcoming

**SONIA MENCHAVEZ, OD, MPH**  
**OPTOMETRIST**  
**SALUD PARA LA GENTE**



Dr. Sonia Menchavez received her Doctor of Optometry degree as well as her Master in Public Health at University of California, Berkeley. As Optometry Director, Dr. Menchavez designed and implemented novel in-house eye care services at Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto, California. She now works as an optometrist at Salud Para La Gente in Watsonville, California. She also lectures on public health optometry for UC Berkeley School of Optometry. In her spare time she enjoys hiking, reading, dancing and spending time with her husband and two children.

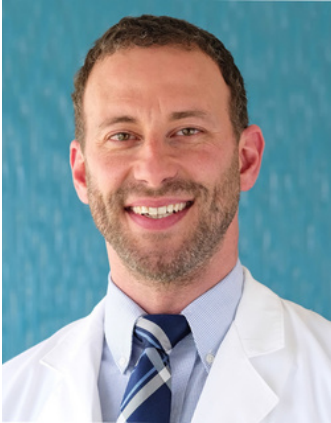
# COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONT'D)

**SUMMER WILLIAMSON, OD**  
**OPTOMETRIST**  
**JORDAN VALLEY HEALTH CENTER**



Dr. Summer Williamson received her Doctorate of Optometry from Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in 2011. While in school, she enjoyed taking mission trips with Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, providing eyecare to those in need. After graduating, she served five years as an optometrist in the United States Air Force, reaching the rank of Major. In 2017, Dr. Williamson joined Jordan Valley Community Health Center in Springfield, Missouri, working both in clinic and on the vision mobile unit, visiting schools and clinics across Southwest Missouri. She is a member of the American Optometric Association, Missouri Optometric Association, and Greater Ozarks Optometric Society. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two young boys.

**TAREQ NABHAN, OD**  
**OPTOMETRIST/ASSISTANT**  
**PROFESSOR**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI -**  
**ST. LOUIS**



Dr. Tareq Nabhan studied chemistry at Pittsburg State University and focused on chemical education at the graduate level at the University of Kansas. He taught at Kaplan Test Prep and served as a food chemist before starting optometry school in 2008 at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). He held leadership positions as a student and graduated with distinction in 2012. While in private practice, he joined the college as a part-time faculty member and earned the UMSL College of Optometry Educator of the Year award in 2017. He joined the faculty full-time in 2019. Today, Dr. Nabhan is developer and coordinator of Introduction to Telehealth, lead attending and lead of teleretina services at Affinia Healthcare, serves on numerous college and university committees, and is active in research and development of hardware-software telehealth solutions. He serves consultancy roles across multiple industries and was selected to the Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) as a Special Government Employee for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in 2022.

Dr. Nabhan currently serves on the Board of Directors for VOSH/International, on the clinical advisory panels of OneSight Essilor Luxottica Foundation and RestoringVision, and board member of the St. Louis Optometric Society. Dr. Nabhan is a member of the Johns Hopkins Medicine-led RReSTORE Consortium for regenerative medicine in glaucoma and was selected to the 2020 class of the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research. Having participated in more than twenty humanitarian clinics throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East, North America, and South America, Dr. Nabhan was appointed UMSL's SVOSH chapter faculty advisor in 2021.

# STUDENT MEMBER

**PURVA ATREAY, MS**  
**THIRD YEAR STUDENT**  
**NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF**  
**OPTOMETRY**



Purva Atreay is a third-year student at the New England College of Optometry (NECO). She is one of the founding members of NECO's Community Health Club, which is focused on educating students on culturally competent care and how to best care for underserved communities. Her club has organized a series of lectures by faculty working in community health and is currently creating a guide to practicing culturally competent care throughout the NECO Community Health network. Before NECO, Purva received her Bachelor's Degree in Neuroscience and Public Health and Masters Degree in Medical Science from Boston University, where she volunteered with multiple community service organizations across the city of Boston. Purva is passionate about equity in health care, practicing community health and providing pediatric care. By becoming a part of ACU, Purva hopes to learn how to become a clinician that can practice and promote equitable care.