



AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY®
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Association of University
Professors of Ophthalmology

Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring

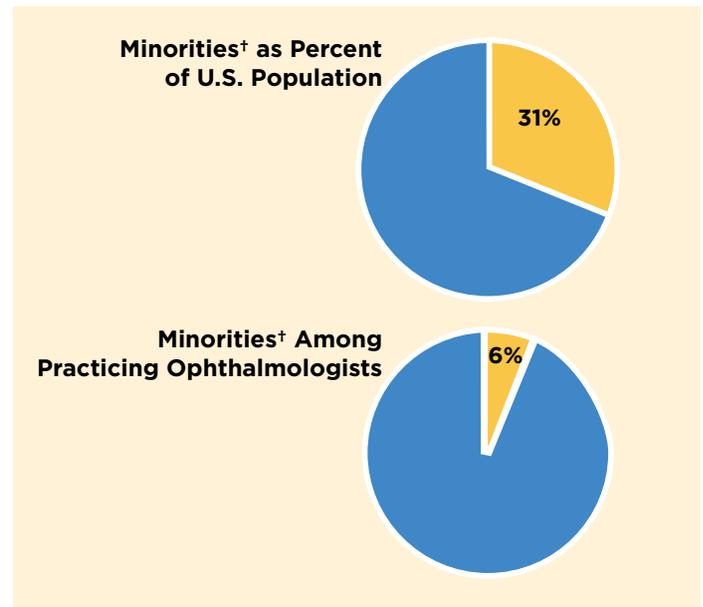
Cultivating the Next Generation



Annual Report 2018 – 2019

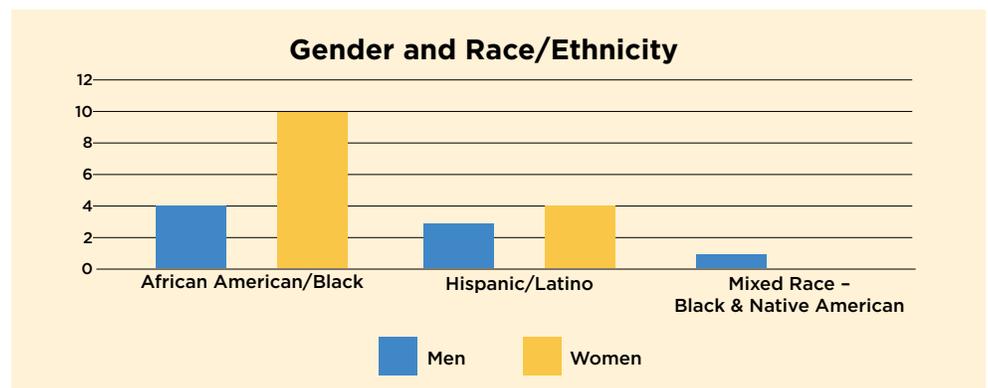
The **Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring** program began with a two-year pilot in 2016 led by a small-but-dedicated band of ophthalmologists. The purpose of the program is to increase diversity in the field of ophthalmology by helping medical students who are underrepresented minorities in medicine become competitive ophthalmology residency applicants.

Public health evidence reveals that access to care improves when the physician community reflects the population at large. Although underrepresented minority groups comprise 30.7% of the U.S. population, they only make up 6% of practicing ophthalmologists.



Our Students

- The class of 2018 includes 22 students from 15 schools across the country.
- More than 80% of participants are in the first two years of medical school.



† Data as reported in *JAMA Ophthalmology* (2016) is based on those minorities traditionally underrepresented in medicine: Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American (American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian).

Student Engagement Weekend in Chicago

The inaugural class of the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program was welcomed at AAO 2018 in Chicago, where they first met their ophthalmologist mentors and spent two days with fellow students learning about the many facets of ophthalmology. This immersive experience included:

- Panel sessions and roundtables with practicing ophthalmologists and residents
- Exploring the anatomy of the eye using a virtual reality simulator
- Hands-on experience with ophthalmic technology in the exhibition hall
- Observing a Skills Transfer lab
- Multiple networking opportunities



Take three minutes to watch “The Changing Face of Ophthalmology” to learn more about the program.



Resources and Tools

- An ophthalmologist mentor is matched with each student and serves as a valuable guide through medical school and residency.
- All students in the program are provided with full access to Academy online educational materials.
- Students preparing for the USMLE® Step 1 exam receive a full complement of self-study resources, including *First Aid for the USMLE® Step 1*, Qbanks and self-assessments. They also participate in an eight-month online prep course through an educational nonprofit that supports underrepresented students in medicine who are pursuing competitive specialties.
- With help from academic institutions, the program maintains a list of research opportunities and community projects shared exclusively with our students.

Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Program Class of 2018

100%

of students would recommend the program to a friend

4 out of 5

students are interested in applying to an ophthalmology residency program

100%

of Student Engagement Weekend participants reported an increased interest in ophthalmology



“This weekend and program have totally exceeded my expectations. I’m blown away by the organization and number of amazing ophthalmologists so willing to help all of us. I am going to continue sharing this program with my school.”

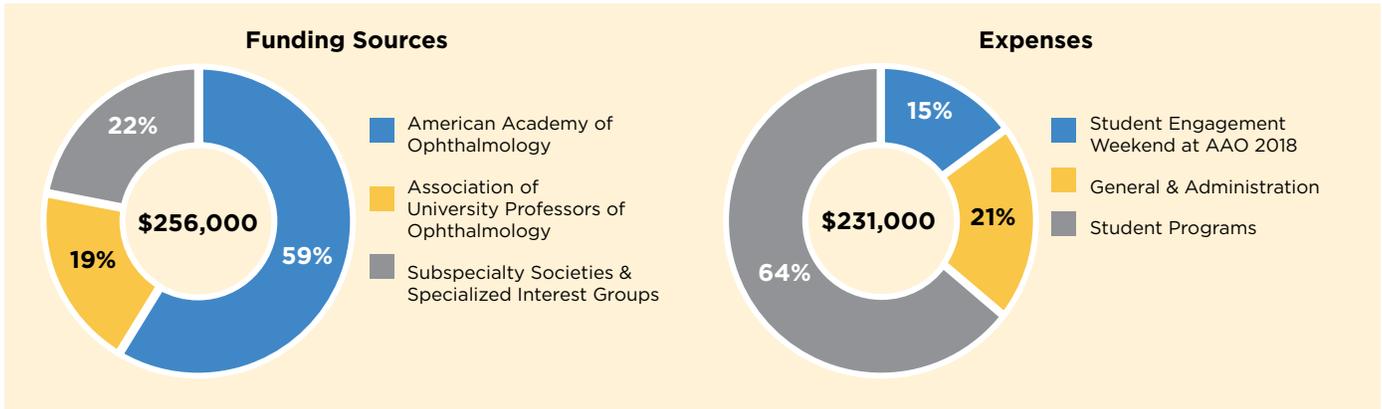
EVE BOWERS, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Roles for Ophthalmologists

At the heart of the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program is a dynamic team of ophthalmologists dedicated to supporting students on their paths to becoming competitive ophthalmology residency applicants.

Over 150 ophthalmologists participate as mentors, presenters at Student Engagement Weekend, speakers at medical schools and Champions (liaisons at academic institutions).

Financials



Grateful to Our Sponsors

The American Academy of Ophthalmology thanks the following organizations for their support.

Partner: Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology*

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Ophthalmology Section*
North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society*
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* Organization committed to multiple years

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