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Association of University  
Professors of Ophthalmology

2019 Annual Report

## Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring **Cultivating the Next Generation**



## 2019 Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Program Annual Report

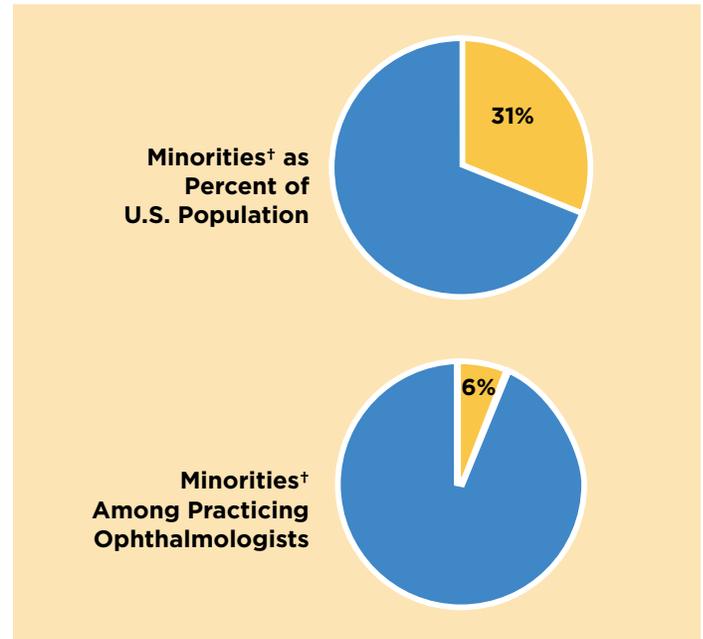
The Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program, a partnership between the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), now in its second formal year, has assisted over 50 students through the dedication of volunteer ophthalmologists.

The program's purpose is to increase diversity in the field of ophthalmology by helping qualified medical students who are underrepresented in medicine (URiM) 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.

Since its inception, the program has made a real impact on medical students' lives. Here is just one of many examples: "The Minority in Ophthalmology Mentoring program positively influenced my decision to pursue a career in ophthalmology and provided me some resources I would have otherwise not had access to." – Dr. Manuela Gutierrez, incoming ophthalmology resident at Wake Forest University School of Medicine

† 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 San Francisco

Students were introduced to ophthalmology during Student Engagement Weekend at AAO 2019 in San Francisco. In two days, they experienced:

- panel sessions and roundtables with practicing ophthalmologists and residents
- explorations of the anatomy of the eye using a virtual reality simulator
- ophthalmic technology, hands-on in the exhibition hall
- pig eye suturings in a skills transfer lab
- multiple networking opportunities

**100% of the Student Engagement Weekend participants reported increased interest in ophthalmology.**

Take three minutes to watch "[The Changing Face of Ophthalmology](#)," a short video created during Student Engagement Weekend.



"I had a blast at Student Engagement Weekend, and I was able to form many meaningful relationships with peers, residents and attendings."

**PRINCESS OGIDI**  
DREXEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

## Resources and Tools

- Ophthalmologist mentors are matched one-on-one with Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring students and serve as valuable guides through medical school and residency.
- Many ophthalmology departments have identified a champion to introduce students to the program and help them identify opportunities in ophthalmology.
- All students in the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program are provided with full access to Academy educational materials, including textbooks such as *Basic Ophthalmology and Physicians Guide to Eye Care*, as well as the Ophthalmic News and Education (ONE) Network®.
- Students preparing for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 exam were given self-study resources including First Aid, Qbanks and self-assessments. They also participated in an eight-month online prep course.
- With help from academic institutions, the program maintains the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Research and Community Database, a list of research opportunities and community projects shared exclusively with Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring students.

## Our Students



## Student Testimonials

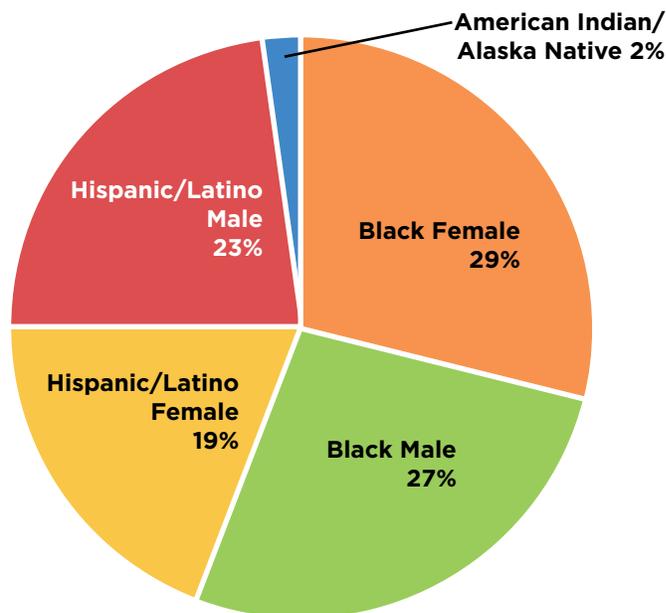
“This is a program that every subspecialty should have, and I am proud of the field of ophthalmology for being one of the first to create such a necessary and extremely helpful program. ... [It] says to me that I matter and makes me more interested in the specialty. It is so hard to find African American (especially female) mentors in surgical subspecialties, and I am so grateful that the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program makes it easier.”

EVE BOWERS, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

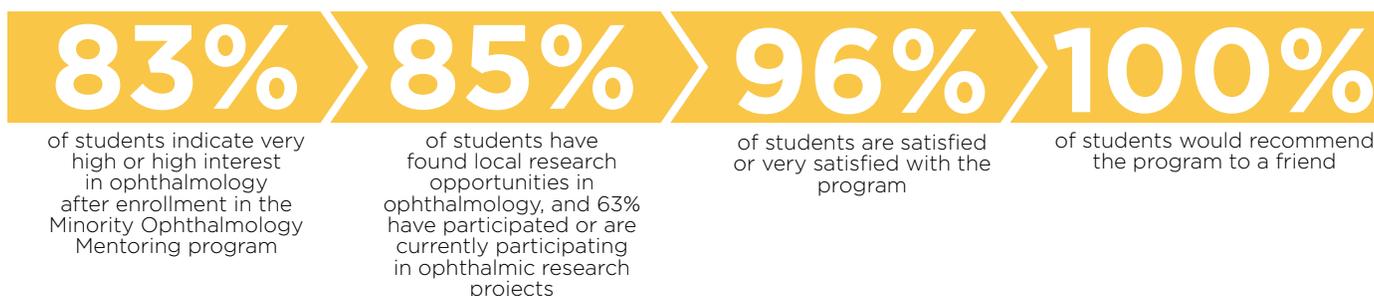
“It’s nice to be able to build connections with people in the specialties I previously thought were too competitive for me to enter.”

GAVIN RAMOS, THE ROY J. AND LUCILLE A. CARVER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

## Class of 2018 and 2019 Students



## Program Success

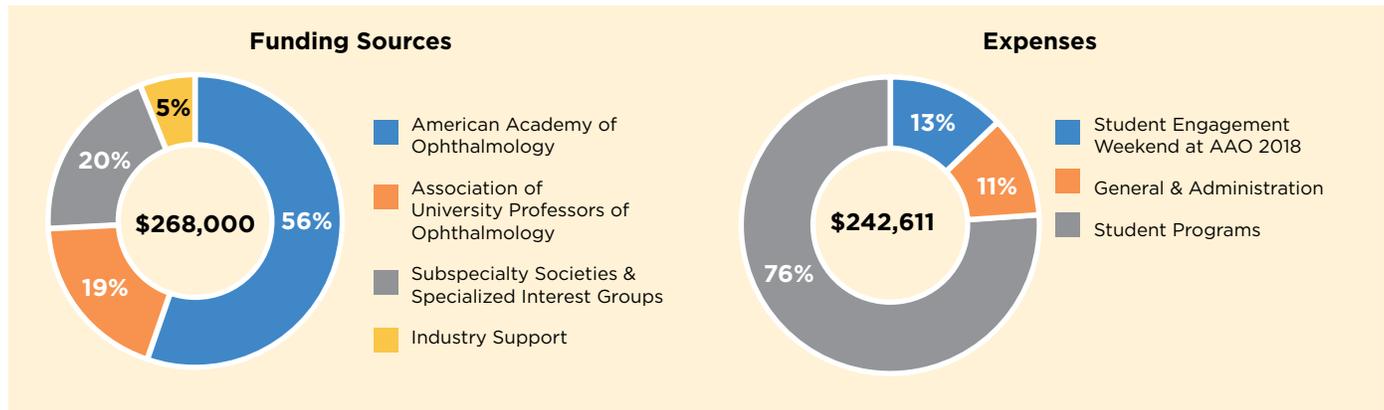


## Roles for Ophthalmologists

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 who serve as liaisons at academic institutions.

## Financials



## Grateful to Our Sponsors

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

### Partner: Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology\*

#### Society Support

##### Gold Sponsor (\$5,000+)

- American Board of Ophthalmology\*
- American Glaucoma Society\*
- American Glaucoma Society Foundation\*
- American Ophthalmological Society
- American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery\*
- American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- National Medical Association - Ophthalmology Section\*
- North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society\*
- Outpatient Ophthalmic Surgery Society\*
- Retina Society

##### Bronze Sponsor (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

- American Society of Retina Specialists
- American Uveitis Society\*

#### Corporate Support

##### Bronze Sponsor (\$15,000)

- Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals

\* Organization committed to multiple years

## Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Program Executive Committee

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