

## THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF OPHTHALMIC TRAUMA NEWSLETTER



### Here's What You *Missed* at Eye Trauma 2025: *Two Days of Innovation, Insight, and Impact*

ASOT EYE TRAUMA 2025, held May 9- 10, brought together the leadership of international ocular trauma societies, academia, the military, and private practice ophthalmologists with forward-thinking learners from around the world for two days of hands-on learning, powerful discussions, and meaningful collaboration.

**Day 1** commenced with the highly anticipated Skills Transfer Lab, where 70 learners received personalized instruction from top traumatologists worldwide. They also had the opportunity to explore innovative products from industry leaders.

The Opening Session provided case-based updates in Oculoplastics and Retina, wrapping up in a compelling session on real-world challenges faced by civilian ophthalmologists in current active conflict zones.

The day concluded with a lively Welcome Reception. President Grant Justin recognized Dr. Tom Zampieri for foundational work with the Blinded Veterans Association and advocacy for vision research funding. Dr. G. Sundar was lauded for international innovation in eye trauma care.

**Day 2** began with Breakfast with Experts and the Hackathon competition. It was followed by a keynote address by AAO President Michael X. Repka, MD.

Mazzoli-LaPiana laureate Dr. Marcus H. Colyer discussed big data from the Military Eye Trauma Registry he pioneered. Dr. Frank K. Butler, Jr. was recognized with the Kuhn Award for his life-saving work in developing the Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Stop the Bleed protocols.

Afternoon sessions focused on Cornea, Lens, and Glaucoma trauma, disaster medicine, telemedicine, original research and AI in trauma care. A live telemedicine demonstration from Boston showcased how virtual platforms are transforming global access to expert care. Led by U.S. and British military telemedicine directors, Harvard, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, this session highlighted the transformative power of virtual platforms in providing expert care globally.

ASOT Eye Trauma '25 underscored the importance of collaboration, innovation, and excellence in advancing trauma care and public health.

# Inspiring the *Next Generation*: ASOT's First Wet Lab for Students & Interns Delivers Big

Friday at the ASOT 2025 Annual Meeting marked a major milestone: the debut of a dedicated wet lab designed specifically for medical students and interns. More than 30 trainees from 13 institutions participated, making it a standout addition to this year's program. With hands-on experience and early exposure to trauma care, ASOT is helping inspire the next generation of ocular trauma specialists.

The skills transfer lab featured three high-yield stations—**corneal suturing, skin suturing, and corneal foreign body removal**—equipped with three Alcon surgical microscopes, two digitally-enhanced Haag-Streit slit lamps, six skin suturing practice stations, and unlimited pig eyes for suture practice. Participants received a preparatory guide beforehand, allowing them to arrive confident and ready to maximize their time with faculty.

Trainees rotated through stations in small groups, receiving one-on-one instruction, surgical tips, and real-time feedback from expert faculty. The lab emphasized not just technical skill, but confidence, attention to detail, and an introduction to the mindset of trauma care.

Each station was led by passionate faculty mentors:

- **Drs. Mona Hussein, Jennifer Yu, and Donny Suh** guided corneal suturing, helping students place 10-0 nylon to close full-thickness corneal wounds under the microscope.
- **Drs. Michael Repka and Marguerite Weinert** instructed the skin suturing station, helping participants refine their tissue handling and knot-tying techniques.
- **Drs. Marguerite Weinert and Donny Suh** supervised the foreign body removal station, emphasizing safety and confidence at the slit lamp.
- **Dr Annette Hoskins** discussed ocular trauma terminology with trainees, including the Birmingham Eye Trauma Terminology (BETT) system.

Between rotations, **Ankoor Shah, MD, PhD**, led a dynamic discussion on foundational principles in ocular trauma, covering trauma cases from the eyelid to the back of the orbit and everything in between—giving students a rare opportunity to ask questions and engage with an approachable national leader in the field.

*"This wet lab offered a one-of-a-kind opportunity, making ASOT 2025 the best conference I've been to yet,"* said Nick Jones, a third-year medical student at UT Health San Antonio.

The launch of this student/intern wet lab section underscores ASOT's commitment to mentorship and workforce development. With overwhelmingly positive feedback, ASOT and the wet lab planning committee, **led by Grayson W Armstrong, MD, MPH, along with Jared Tuttle, BS** in charge of planning the medical student wet lab session, plans to expand the wet lab offerings at next year's meeting, including more advanced surgical skills and faculty-student mentorship opportunities. From first-time forceps users to future trauma specialists, the wet lab delivered energy, skill-building, and inspiration to kick off the meeting.



## 2025 ANNUAL MEETING POSTER WINNERS

### Day 1 – Session A

- EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DODGEBALL, KICKBALL, AND PICKLEBALL OCULAR TRAUMA
  - **Presenter: Jainam Shah**
- INCREASED SEVERITY OF OCULAR AND OCULOFACIAL INJURIES IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
  - **Presenter: Sean Teebagy**
- IMPACT OF BASELINE DEMOGRAPHIC AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS ON TIMING OF SURGERY
  - **Presenter: Helia Ashourizadeh**

### Day 2 – Session B

- EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL PATTERNS OF WORKPLACE OCULAR INJURIES
  - **Presenter: Kalaivani Mohan**
- IMPACT OF SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS ON TRAUMA OUTCOMES AFTER OPEN GLOBE INJURIES
  - **Presenter: Constance Chen**
- INDEPENDENT VALIDATION OF THE RD-OGI SCORE
  - **Presenter: Sam Karimaghaei**

## A HEARTFELT *THANK YOU* TO ALL POSTER CONTRIBUTORS

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who submitted posters for this year's meeting. The depth, quality, and scholarly merit of your work were truly exceptional. Each submission reflected a commitment to advancing the field of ocular trauma and improving patient outcomes.

Your contributions are the cornerstone of our annual meeting's success, and we are honored to showcase such exemplary research within our community.

# A SHARK TANK SPIN ON AN OPHTHALMOLOGY CONFERENCE

SUBMITTED BY

FATMA SHAKARCHI MD MSC, EVELYN BASSETT MD, MARY GONZÁLEZ SURIEL MD

“Hi Sharks, today we’re pitching protective eyeglasses...”

We are: Fatma, an international resident and global health practitioner working with the United Nations, Evelyn, an international doctor currently pursuing an MPH, and Mary, an ophthalmologist and the lead of comprehensive ophthalmology at APEC, in Mexico City.

We attended the American Society of Ophthalmic Trauma (ASOT) Annual Meeting in Houston. The conference dives deep into the challenges and solutions surrounding ocular trauma, but what sets it apart is how it brings together clinical care, policy, legal considerations, and public health in one space. We had presented at ASOT last year and learned so much that we were excited to participate again. This year, ASOT added something unexpected and truly exciting: a Hackathon. The concept was simple but ambitious. Small teams were asked to deliver a “TEDx-style” pitch tackling a problem in ocular trauma. Each team had 2–3 members, randomly assigned by the planning committee, and we would compete for a \$500 grant.

**[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)**



# ADVOCACY IN ACTION: TRAINEES PITCH SOLUTIONS AT ASOT'S INAUGURAL HACKATHON

BY JARED TUTTLE, BS

The Advocacy in Action Hackathon kicked off Saturday morning at the ASOT Annual Meeting during the lively “Breakfast with the Experts” session. Over coffee, waffles, and rapid-fire presentations, four teams of trainees representing nine different institutions pitched bold ideas to improve access in ocular trauma care. In a fast-paced, Shark Tank-meets-TEDx format, each team had four minutes to define a problem and pitch their solution—vying for a \$500 ASOT grant and the chance to implement real-world impact.

Teams were formed two months in advance and collaborated remotely, culminating in final presentations before a panel of esteemed judges: Annette Hoskin, PhD, MBA (University of Sydney, ISO Chair); Ankoor Shah, MD, PhD (Harvard Medical School, ASOT Executive Board); Gary Legault, MD (Brooke Army Medical Center); and Rod Foroozan, MD (Baylor College of Medicine, team ophthalmologist for the Houston Rockets, Dynamo, Dash, and Astros).

This year’s winning project—“Neutralizing the Enemy: Chemical Ocular Injuries”—was developed by Connie Chen, MS (Bascom Palmer Eye Institute), Jay Muthu, BS (Bascom Palmer Eye Institute), and Sean Teebagy, MD (University of Massachusetts). The team proposed distributing chemical burn response kits in emergency departments, enabling victims to deliver these life-saving tools to communities most at risk. Other standout ideas included novel technology to prevent toy firearm injuries, low-cost canthotomy educational kits, and QR-accessible worker safety training videos.

The hackathon exemplifies ASOT’s commitment to empowering the next generation of ophthalmic trauma leaders—not just to care for patients, but to advocate for them. We look forward to seeing how these ideas grow in impact over the year ahead.

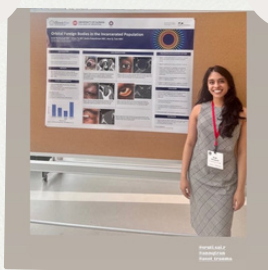
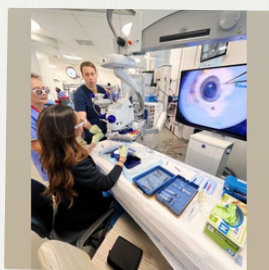
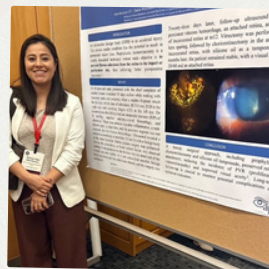


PRESENTING INNOVATIVE RESEARCH TO  
PEERS AND JUDGES.



HACKATHON ORGANIZER JARED TUTTLE





Looking Ahead to 2026!

2026

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 23-26 | HOUSTON, TX

American Society of Ophthalmic Trauma  
Annual Meeting + Wet Lab

## Eye Trauma 2026 High Level Schedule

 **Friday, April 24 | 8:00 AM–5:00 PM**

For Residents, Fellows, and Practitioners:

- Surgical Skills Transfer & Technology Training
- Damage Control Techniques
- Trauma Reconstruction Electives
- Technology Updates & Hands-On Training

For Senior Pre-Ophthalmology Medical Students & Ophthalmology Interns:

- Trauma Education, Examination, and Surgical Skills Course

Also Featuring:

- Day 1 Moderated Poster Sessions

 **Saturday, April 25 – Annual Meeting Highlights**

- Breakfast with the Experts & Hack-a-thon
- Day 2 Moderated Posters
- Original Research Presentations
- Case-Based Learning Sessions
- Pro-Con Debates
- Conference Welcome Reception

 **Sunday, April 26 | 8:00–11:45 AM**

- Breakfast & Conference Sessions
- ASOT Consensus Standards: Trauma Preferred Practice Guidelines
- Complications in Trauma Care
- Awards Ceremony: Research, Video, Photo, Hackathon
- Raffle & Closing Remarks



## Watch the Annual Meeting Recording

**Couldn't attend live?  
Catch up on all the key  
moments from our Annual  
Meeting!**

In the recording, you'll find:

- Insightful keynote presentations from leading experts
- Highlights from panel discussions and Q&A sessions
- Recognition of outstanding contributions in the field

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH  
THE FULL RECORDING](#)



# Thank You to our *Incredible* Eye Trauma 2025 Committees

We extend our deepest gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who made this year's ASOT Eye Trauma 2025 Annual Meeting and Skills Transfer Lab a success. Your time, expertise, and commitment to excellence are what make our events truly exceptional.

## **Wet Lab Skills Transfer Lab Planning Committee**

- **Chair: Grayson Armstrong, MD, MPH** – Massachusetts Eye & Ear/Harvard Medical School
- Jared Tuttle, BS – Long School of Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center
- Boonkit Purt, MD – Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, University of Michigan

## **Annual Meeting Planning Committee**

- **Chair: Amy Coburn, MD** – Balton Eye Institute, Houston Methodist Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College
- Boonkit Purt, MD – Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, University of Michigan
- Grayson Armstrong, MD, MPH – Massachusetts Eye & Ear/Harvard Medical School
- Ankoor Shah, MD, PhD – Boston Children's Hospital
- Nicholas Max Scoville, MD – The Ohio State University, Wexner Medical Center
- Fasika Woreta, MD, MPH – The Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Kristen Hawthorne, MD – Howerton Eye Clinic
- Sandra Montezuma, MD – University of Minnesota
- Jared Tuttle, BS – Long School of Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center
- Grant A. Justin, MD – Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Your hard work behind the scenes ensures our members have a meaningful and enriching experience. Thank you for your outstanding contributions!

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# WELCOME ASOT'S *NEW* BOARD MEMBERS



INTERNATIONAL CHAIR  
JOSE DALMA WEISZHAUSZ, MD



RESEARCH CHAIR  
DAVID FLEISCHMAN, MD

Join the ASOT  
Ophthalmic Trauma Society



American Society of Ophthalmic Trauma



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Don't Miss out!

# Thank You 2025 Eye Trauma Sponsors

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