

CURRICULUM VITAE

Melanie Akau, O.D., F.A.A.O.

Clinical Instructor, Optometry
Department of Ophthalmology
Neuro-Ophthalmology Collaborative Care Team
Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center
University of Colorado Hospital, Anschutz Medical Campus

Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center, Anschutz Medical Campus

1675 Aurora Court, Mail Stop F-371
Aurora, CO 80045

Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center, LoDo

1435 Wazee Street, Suite 101
Denver, CO 80204

Appointments: 720-848-2020
Anschutz Fax: 720-848-5079
LoDo Fax: 720-553-0394

www.eyeinstitute.org

PREDOCTORAL EDUCATION

2003-2008 Undergraduate: Bachelor of Music, Violin Performance, Summa cum laude
The University of Texas at Austin, Butler School of Music
Austin, TX

2008-2012 Optometric: Doctor of Optometry with Honors in Clinical Research
University of California Berkeley, School of Optometry
Berkeley, CA

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING

2012-2013 Residency: Ocular Disease and Primary Care
West Roxbury Veterans Affairs Hospital, Boston, MA

2013-2015 Fellowship: Optometric Research Fellow
Jamaica Plain Veterans Affairs Hospital, Boston MA

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2013-2015 Adjunct Assistant Professor of Optometry, Primary Care, New England College
of Optometry, Boston, MA

2017- Clinical Instructor, Faculty, University of Colorado, Denver, Anschutz Medical
Campus

EMPLOYMENT

2009-2012 Lab Assistant, Sight Enhancement Lab at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

2013-2014 Optometrist, Hamel Eye Associates, Peabody, MA

2013-2015 Optometrist, Compensation and Pension, Boston VA Hospital, Boston, MA

2015-2016 Optometrist, Nashua Eye Associates, Nashua, NH, Hudson, NH, Milford, NH
 2016-2017 Optometrist, Paris Eye Care, Waltham, MA

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

Certified Suzuki Method Violin Instructor, Books 1 to 4
 2012-2017 Optometrist License, Therapeutics & Glaucoma, Pennsylvania (inactive)
 2013-2017 Optometrist License, Therapeutics, Massachusetts (inactive)
 2015-2017 Optometrist License, Therapeutics & Glaucoma, New Hampshire (inactive)
 2017- Optometrist License, Therapeutics & Glaucoma, Colorado (active)

HOSPITAL STAFF MEMBERSHIP

2012-2015 Boston Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Boston, MA

HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

2003 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship
 2003-2008 David & Mary Green Chair Scholarship, Butler School of Music
 2003-2008 Non-Resident Tuition Waiver, Butler School of Music
 2008 UCBSO Incentive Award
 2008-2012 UCBSO Departmental Scholarship
 2009 UCBSO Service Award
 2009-2012 Beta Sigma Kappa Honors Society
 2010 Walman Optical Company Scholarship
 2010 Dorothy Bates Searls Endowment
 2011 UCBSO Service Award
 2011 Dr. Stanley Pearle OneSight Scholarship
 2011 Carl Zeiss Vision Fellow, American Optometric Foundation
 2011 Robert Greenwood Private Practice Patient Management Award
 2012 UC Optometry Alumni Ocular Disease Professional Student Support Fund
 2012 Alcon Primary Care Award – Tang Eye Center
 2012 Gold Retinoscope Award – UC Berkeley School of Optometry
 2013- Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2012-2017 Massachusetts Society of Optometrists
 2013- American Academy of Optometry
 2017- Colorado Optometric Association
 2017- American Optometric Association

ADMINISTRATIVE, COMMITTEE, AND SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

Community

2008 Volunteer, vision screenings, Suitcase Clinic, Berkeley, CA
 2009 Volunteer, Blind Babies Foundation & Guide Dogs for the Blind
 2011 Volunteer, vision screenings, Remote Area Medical (RAM) Volunteer Corps
 2013, 2014 Volunteer, vision screenings, Operation Stand Down, Boston VAMC

Other

2008-2012 Volunteer, UCBSO Admit Day, Interview Day, Foresight Pre-Optometry

2010 Fall Conference, National Student Leadership Conference
UCBSO Admissions Committee Member

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT

2014 Beta Sigma Kappa Research Fellowship Awardee
2019 - Lens Opacities Classification System, Version III (LOCS III)
Certification, Chylack Inc.
2019 - Clinical Trial, Optometrist. *Multicenter, randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled two stage study to characterize the efficacy, safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of GZ/SAR402671 in patients at risk of rapidly progressive Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD).* Sanofi sponsor.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Deyue Yu, Melanie M. Akau, Susana T.L. Chung. "The mechanism of word crowding." *Vision Research*. Volume 52, Issue 1. 61-69.
2. Akau, M. "The Art and Science of Referrals." *Modern Optometry/CollaborativeEye*. July/August 2019.
3. Podcast on *The MOD Pod*, Episode 6. "The Art and Science of Referrals." August 20, 2019.

CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

Local

1. Akau, MMU. The Dizzying World of Double Vision. Rocky Mountain Ophthalmic Personnel. June 2018.
2. Akau, MMU. Neuro-Ophthalmic Emergencies. Northern Colorado Optometric Society. COPE Course ID: 61375-NO. March 2019.
3. Akau, MMU. Optic Neuritis beyond MS: NMO and MOG. Denver Metro Optometric Society. January 2021.

National

1. Akau, MMU, Fanciullo, L. *Complete Bilateral External Ophthalmoplegia*. American Academy of Optometry Meeting, Phoenix, AZ. October 2012. [poster]
2. Akau, MMU, Fanciullo, L. *MVA Related Concussion Confounds Diagnosis of Lyme Encephal meningitis*. SECO annual meeting, Atlanta, GA. March 2013. [poster]
3. Akau, MMU, Fanciullo, L. *It's a Crisis! A Case Report and Review of Hypertensive Crisis and Hypertensive Retinopathy*. SECO annual meeting, Atlanta, GA. March 2014. [poster]
4. Akau, MMU. *A Tragic Case of Perioperative Vision Loss*. American Academy of Optometry, Grand Rounds Lecturer, Denver, CO. November 2014. [presentation]
5. Akau, MMU. *From Front to Back: Pigmented Lesions of the Anterior and Posterior Segment*. Boston VA Teleretinal Imaging Lecturer. May 2015. [national tele-presentation]

Resident Education Lectures

1. Akau, MMU. *Complete Bilateral External Ophthalmoplegia*. Boston VA Hospital, Grand Rounds. September 2012. [presentation]
2. Akau, MMU. *The Many Faces of 7: A Theme and Variations on a Facial Palsy*. Boston VA Hospital, Grand Rounds. April 2013. [presentation]

3. Akau, MMU. *A Case of the Vanishing Christmas Lights*. Boston VA Hospital Grand Rounds. April 2015. [presentation]

SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

- 2010 Deyue Yu, Melanie M.U. Akau, Susana T.L. Chung. The mechanism of word crowding. Vision Sciences Society annual meeting. Naples, FL.
- 2011 Akau, MMU, Deyue Yu, Susana T.L. Chung. The dioptric effect of blur on sight-reading music. American Academy of Optometry annual meeting. San Francisco, CA. [poster]
- 2014 Optimizing the Use of the Macula in Glaucoma. Co-moderator for Scientific Session. American Academy of Optometry annual meeting. Denver, CO.
- 2015 Akau, MMU. Influence of Fovea-Disc Angle on Intra- and Interocular RNFL and Macular Thickness Symmetry in Normal Eyes. American Academy of Optometry annual meeting. New Orleans, LA. [Hybrid poster & presentation]

VIOLINIST

- 1999-2017 Free Lance Chamber Musician and Soloist for events: weddings, engagements, cocktail parties, dinner celebrations
- 2012 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Summer Philharmonic Orchestra
- 2013 Principal Second Violinist, MetroWest Opera production of "Carmen", Weston, MA
- 2013-2017 Acting Principal Second Violinist, Brookline Symphony Orchestra, Brookline MA