

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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

Clinical Instructor, Optometrist  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Medical Director of Staff Education  
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

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[www.eyeinstitute.org](http://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, School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus

2022- Medical Director of Staff Education

### **EMPLOYMENT**

2007-2009 Optometric Technician & Receptionist, Innovative Eyecare, Austin, TX

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

**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT**

- 2014 Beta Sigma Kappa Research Fellowship Awardee
- 2019 - 2021 Lens Opacities Classification System, Version III (LOCS III)  
Certification, Chylack Inc.
- 2019 - 2021 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.
- 2021 - University of Colorado Retina Research Group, AMD Registry

**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, 2 hour COA CE lecture.
4. Akau, MMU. *Ocular Motilities*. UHealth Technician Preceptor meeting. March 2021
5. Akau, MMU. *Ocular Motilities*. JCAHPO (Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology) lecture. 1 hour CE credit. June 25, 2021.
6. Akau, MMU, Subramanian, P. *My Patient Sees Double - What Now?!* 25th Annual Ophthalmology Symposium, Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center, Anschutz Medical Center - University of Colorado. September 10, 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 Encephalomeningitis*. 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 Lecture. 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]
4. Akau, MMU. *Ophthalmic Optics*. Ophthalmology Residents, July 1, 2021.

#### **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