



## ASCO Cultural Competency Case Study Competition for Residents

The Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee (DCCC) is pleased to announce the third Cultural Competency Case Study Competition. The contest is open to individuals who are **currently** participating in an optometric residency as of July 1, 2020, through any of ASCO's 23 accredited schools and colleges.

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***Cultural Competence is a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, policies that come together in a system, agency or amongst professionals and enable that system, agency, or those professionals to work effectively in cross cultural situations" (Cross, et al., 1989).***  
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### **Background**

In an effort to promote cultural competency at its colleges and universities, the ASCO Board of Directors approved the *ASCO Guidelines for Culturally Competent Eye and Vision Care* in 2008. This widely-used document is an adaptation of best practices from schools, colleges, organizations, and associations of the health professions.

The rationale for the ASCO Guidelines states that *"It is a clinical necessity that optometrists possess the patient-centered attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary to competently serve a diverse community with its spectrum of education, experiences, beliefs, values, customs, preferences, fears, and expectations that impact the interpersonal interactions of clinical care."* ASCO has determined that a compilation of optometric case studies will greatly augment the Guidelines, serving as a resource tool for institutions to promote cultural competency in the clinical setting and across the curriculum. The initial competition was held in 2014, followed by a second competition in 2015, and the compilation is currently comprised of seven case studies. The goal of this third competition is to enhance the collection by providing an even more diverse selection of cases focused on culturally-competent care (e.g., persons with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum, LGBTQIA+, religious groups, biracial and blended families, etc.). All case-study submissions become the property of ASCO for use in the compilation, other publications, and for educational uses such as workshops.

### **Requirements**

Before preparing a case study for submission, competition applicants **are strongly encouraged** to view the ASCO Guidelines, referenced above, on the ASCO website at:

[https://optometriceducation.org/files/Guidelines\\_CulturallyCompetentEyeAndVisionCare.pdf](https://optometriceducation.org/files/Guidelines_CulturallyCompetentEyeAndVisionCare.pdf) as well as the *Case Studies in Cultural Competency* compilation at [https://optometriceducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/FINAL-7-19-16-Cultural-Competency-Case-Studies.final\\_.pdf](https://optometriceducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/FINAL-7-19-16-Cultural-Competency-Case-Studies.final_.pdf).

**Competition details and requirements are as follows:**

- 1) **You must be a current resident in an ACOE-accredited residency program.**
- 2) **Your submission should consist of a case-study write-up of up to 2,000 words** describing a single patient-based encounter in detail, in any aspect of clinical education, and how cultural competency played a role. Submitted case studies should offer details regarding patient-centered attitudes exhibited; knowledge, skills and sensitivity demonstrated; the cultural background of the participants; and the cultural awareness/competency issue being highlighted. You do not need to be the principal clinician in the case study, just a witness to it. (This means that any situation in which you participated, whether you, a fellow student or a faculty member were the lead clinician, is eligible for submission.)

Please try to answer these questions, when applicable, as you write your case study:

- To what groups does this patient belong?
  - What factors might influence the cultural dynamics of a healthcare provider-client relationship for this patient?
  - What barriers to equity in health care exist for this patient?
  - What health problems are more prevalent in the groups to which this patient belongs?
  - What cultural competency issues are illustrated by this case?
  - How can these issues be addressed in a culturally-competent manner?
- 3) Case studies should describe how the situation was handled, what was done correctly and what possibly could have been done differently or better, and, most importantly, what can be learned from the experience. We want cases that will ultimately help teach others how to handle similar situations. The emphasis of your submission should naturally be the cultural-competency elements and not the clinical data.
  - 4) If available, we suggest that you include citations for appropriate and relevant high-quality sources of published information related to the tenants of culturally-competent clinical care.
  - 5) Once written, **your case study should be given to the Director of Residencies at your institution.** Prior to submission, you should ensure your submission is HIPAA-compliant and, if relevant, if your school requires IRB approval.
  - 6) The Cultural Competency Case Study Subcommittee, comprised of members from the Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee, will decide the final winning selections.
  - 7) **The submission window will open August 1, 2020 and continue through 5 p.m. ET on November 1, 2020.**
  - 8) One grand-prize winner will be awarded a \$750 travel voucher award to Academy 2021 and several runners-up will receive a complimentary resident registration to Academy 2021.
  - 9) **All submissions should be in Microsoft Word format -- no PDF's please.**
  - 10) The Director of Residencies at each school or college of optometry should forward entries to ASCO, c/o Ms. Carol Brubaker, Manager, Professional Affairs, with the subject line: "Cultural Competency Case Study Competition Entry Enclosure(s)" to **cbrubaker@opted.org**.