

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eugene, Ore. – Eugene ophthalmologist **Dr. Mark Packer** has been selected to serve on the Cataract Surgery Knowledge Base Panel established by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO) to promote and maintain fundamental quality in health care.

As a member of the Cataract Panel, Dr. Packer will help create a Knowledge Base that will be used to develop a patient-focused Maintenance of Certification examination for all Board-certified ophthalmologists. It will identify topics appropriate and clinically relevant to the daily practice of ophthalmology, including patient safety issues and ethics, to promote fundamental quality in the healthcare system. When complete, the Knowledge Base will be available as an educational resource for all ophthalmologists and will be continuously updated.

"The Maintenance of Certification process is one that is designed to promote fundamental quality in health care," said Denis M. O'Day, MD, executive director

of the ABO. "Physicians are the necessary substrate for quality in the healthcare system. Maintenance of Certification is medicine's direct response to the public's concern about what defines appropriate and quality care."

Seven to eight AAO members will serve on each of the ten practice emphasis panels. Individual panel members were selected using recommendations from subspecialty societies to include diversity of gender, geographic location and practice type.

Dr. Packer is an associate at Drs. Fine, Hoffman & Packer, LLC, in Eugene and a clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Casey Eye Institute of Oregon Health & Science University.

With more than 27,000 members worldwide, the American Academy of Ophthalmology advances the lifelong learning and professional interests of ophthalmologists to ensure that the public can obtain the best possible eye care. More than 90 percent of practicing US ophthalmologists are AAO members.

Founded in 1916, the American Board of Ophthalmology is an independent, non-profit organization that seeks to foster excellence and encourage continual learning in the practice of ophthalmology. The Board is responsible for certifying ophthalmologists in the United States.

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