



LEARNING THROUGH CLINICAL CARE

STUDENT CASE CHALLENGE

Submissions Accepted June 15 - August 31, 2026

Third- and fourth-year students who are involved in patient care are invited to submit a written patient case study to the American Board of Optometry (ABO). The case study should be based on a clinical case where the student has been involved in the diagnosis and/or management of the patient.

Case Requirements

- Selection committee will look for cases that:
 - a. provide new information about a treatment modality or management approach OR
 - b. provide a good review of current practice guidelines.
- Students may receive guidance from professors and/or OD supervisors. Any person providing guidance should be listed as a contributor.
- Use of ChatGPT or similar generative AI tools is prohibited and will result in disqualification.
- Written case must be sent electronically in a Word document format.
- Email submissions should include submitter name, email address, phone number, school and year in school.
- Submissions will be accepted beginning June 15 through August 31, 2026 and should be emailed to awilhelm@abopt.org.
- An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent for each case received.

Winning Case Award

Submitted cases will be reviewed by the case committee in September. Winner will be announced in late September and will receive \$1000 and an opportunity to work with ABO to develop the case into a learning module for ABO Diplomates.

Suggested Format for Case Study

- The case should be a minimum of 1800 words (excluding references), with no maximum.
- We recommend following the case format used by the Clinical & Refractive Optometry Journal (CROJ), but it is not required. See sample case links below.
- The written submission must not contain any personal information that identifies subjects of the case. The author confirms that any information disclosed in the case complies with HIPAA (USA) or the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) (Canada.) Identifiable facial images should not be used.
- The suggested reference format is the AMA (American Medical Association) style for references. Authors can consult the following resource for more information:

<https://www.amamanualofstyle.com/>

Sample Cases

[A case of mistaken identity](#)

[Bilateral angle closure secondary to topiramate](#)

AMERICA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

www.americanboardofoptometry.org/314.983.4226