

RESULTS OF THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION SURVEY



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What Does Today's Ophthalmic Photographer Do?

Many ophthalmic photographers find job duties expanding well beyond fundus photography, fluorescein angiography and slit-lamp biomicrography. Today, some ophthalmic photographers are expected to network computers, manage databases, and perform OCT imaging, among other new technology tasks.

To best serve its certificants and the members of the Ophthalmic Photographers' Society, the OPS Board of Certification (BOC) must recognize and respond to changes in the profession. In December 2003, the Board of Certification sent a survey to OPS members and

Certified Retinal Angiographers (CRA). The society hoped to gain detailed information regarding the scope of responsibilities faced by today's ophthalmic photographer. Although it is not a formal job analysis, results from this survey will help inform decisions the BOC makes as it updates the society's certification program.

OPS members and CRA's returned 618 of the 1200 surveys sent, a strong response at 51.5 percent. The following tables detail the responses of the first 600 respondents to the survey questions.

Table 1: What is your primary employment responsibility?

Ophthalmic Photographer	356	64.6%
Ophthalmic Technician	114	20.7%
Manager	48	8.7%
Physician	8	1.5%
Medical Photographer	7	1.3%
Nurse	7	1.3%
Equipment vendor/service technician	5	0.9%
Information Technology/Systems Specialist	3	0.5%
Orthoptist	3	0.5%
Other	0	0%

Table 2: What are your Certifications/Credentials?

CRA	283	38.3%	ROUB	9	1.2%
COA	123	16.6%	LPN	5	0.7%
COT	117	15.8%	RBP	3	0.4%
COMT	26	3.5%	OD	2	0.3%
RN	13	1.8%	DO	1	0.1%
MD	10	1.4%	Other	147	19.9%

Ophthalmic Photography Experience

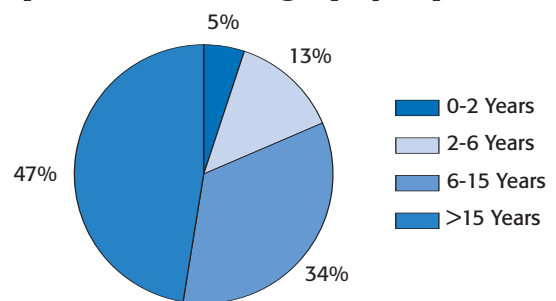


Figure 1

Table 3: What is your professional setting?

Private Practice	365	52.2%
Hospital	173	24.8%
University Hospital	130	18.6%
Independent Contractor	31	4.4%
Other	0	0%

Table 4: How often do you perform the following imaging skills?

Skill	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	Routinely	Total
Fundus Photography Mydriatic	9 (1.5%)	15 (2.6%)	37 (6.3%)	47 (8.0%)	480 (81.6%)	588
Fundus Photography Non-Myd	294 (59.1%)	112 (22.5%)	48 (9.7%)	14 (2.8%)	29 (5.8%)	497
Monochromatic Fundus	148 (30.5%)	89 (18.3%)	70 (14.4%)	40 (8.2%)	139 (28.6%)	486
Fluorescein Angiography	14 (2.4%)	17 (2.9%)	39 (6.6%)	43 (7.3%)	476 (80.8%)	589
ICG Angiography	247 (44.1%)	87 (15.5%)	112 (20.0%)	46 (8.2%)	68 (12.1%)	560
SLO Fluorescein	410 (79.5%)	24 (4.7%)	24 (4.7%)	10 (1.9%)	48 (9.3%)	516
SLO ICG	432 (84.9%)	23 (4.5%)	22 (4.3%)	9 (1.8%)	23 (4.5%)	509
OCT Glaucoma	260 (48.2%)	61 (11.3%)	81 (15.0%)	21 (3.9%)	117 (21.7%)	540
OCT Retina	211 (38.5%)	19 (3.5%)	49 (8.9%)	50 (9.1%)	219 (40.0%)	548
HRT	375 (72.0%)	15 (2.9%)	40 (7.7%)	29 (5.6%)	62 (11.9%)	521
GDX	426 (83.4%)	21 (4.1%)	13 (2.5%)	24 (4.7%)	27 (5.3%)	511
RTA	485 (97.2%)	7 (1.4%)	1 (0.2%)	2 (0.4%)	4 (0.8%)	499
TOPPS	479 (97.2%)	9 (1.8%)	1 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (0.8%)	493
Corneal Topography	328 (60.3%)	39 (7.2%)	60 (11.0%)	53 (9.7%)	64 (11.8%)	544
B-Scans	307 (55.9%)	49 (8.9%)	66 (12.0%)	57 (10.4%)	70 (12.8%)	549
Slit-Lamp Biomicroscopy	233 (43.1%)	66 (12.2%)	87 (16.1%)	51 (9.4%)	104 (19.2%)	541
Specular Microscopy Contact	421 (81.8%)	34 (6.6%)	30 (5.8%)	12 (2.3%)	18 (3.5%)	515
Specular Microscopy Non-Contact	398 (77.3%)	31 (6.0%)	34 (6.6%)	21 (4.1%)	31 (6.0%)	515
Goniography	343 (66.5%)	76 (14.7%)	60 (11.6%)	20 (3.9%)	17 (3.3%)	516
External Photos	73 (13.2%)	120 (21.7%)	165 (29.9%)	75 (13.6%)	119 (21.6%)	552
O.R. Photography	344 (63.5%)	109 (20.1%)	63 (11.6%)	15 (2.8%)	11 (2.0%)	542
Gross Specimen	422 (79.3%)	76 (14.3%)	23 (4.3%)	6 (1.1%)	5 (0.9%)	532
Photomicrography	472 (90.1%)	34 (6.5%)	13 (2.5%)	3 (0.6%)	2 (0.4%)	524
Video O.R.	448 (84.7%)	37 (7.0%)	26 (4.9%)	3 (0.6%)	15 (2.8%)	529
Video Clinical	438 (84.1%)	34 (6.5%)	32 (6.1%)	11 (2.1%)	6 (1.2%)	521
Video Editing	449 (86.5%)	25 (4.8%)	29 (5.6%)	7 (1.4%)	9 (1.7%)	519

Table 5: How often do you perform the following processing skills?

Skill	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	Routinely	Total
B&W Processing	248 (45.3%)	68 (12.4%)	71 (13.0%)	36 (6.6%)	124 (22.7%)	547
B&W Printing	299 (55.2%)	77 (14.2%)	63 (11.7%)	28 (5.2%)	74 (13.7%)	541
Color Processing	454 (84.2%)	17 (3.2%)	20 (3.7%)	13 (2.4%)	35 (6.5%)	539
Color Printing	500 (93.1%)	21 (3.9%)	6 (1.1%)	1 (0.2%)	9 (1.7%)	537
Digital Image Processing	171 (31.3%)	58 (10.6%)	81 (14.9%)	53 (9.7%)	182 (33.4%)	545
Digital Image Printing	122 (22.2%)	34 (6.2%)	79 (14.4%)	63 (11.5%)	251 (45.7%)	549
Database Design/Maint.	202 (37.7%)	63 (11.8%)	62 (11.6%)	47 (8.8%)	162 (30.2%)	536
Image Archiving	105 (19.3%)	32 (5.9%)	56 (10.3%)	52 (9.6%)	299 (55.0%)	544
Network Design/Maint.	288 (54.8%)	63 (12.0%)	63 (12.0%)	32 (6.1%)	80 (15.2%)	526
Slide Duplication	270 (49.9%)	71 (13.1%)	94 (17.4%)	44 (8.1%)	62 (11.5%)	541
Scanning	269 (50.2%)	69 (12.9%)	65 (12.1%)	55 (10.3%)	78 (14.6%)	536
Copywork	268 (49.6%)	89 (16.5%)	83 (15.4%)	43 (8.0%)	57 (10.6%)	540
Presentation Graphics	258 (47.8%)	81 (15.0%)	82 (15.2%)	53 (9.9%)	66 (12.2%)	540
AV Management	313 (58.3%)	71 (13.2%)	61 (11.4%)	39 (7.3%)	53 (9.9%)	537

Table 6: How often do you perform the following skills?

Skill	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	Routinely	Total
Clinical Trials Imager	238 (44.2%)	38 (7.1%)	54 (10.0%)	37 (6.9%)	171 (31.8%)	538
Clinical Trials Coordinator	431 (83.0%)	20 (3.9%)	16 (3.1%)	14 (2.7%)	38 (7.3%)	519
Clinical Trials Image Reader	437 (84.9%)	19 (3.7%)	14 (2.7%)	9 (1.8%)	36 (7.0%)	515
Patient Workup	138 (25.6%)	52 (9.7%)	93 (17.3%)	45 (8.4%)	211 (39.2%)	539
Visual Fields	247 (46.6%)	66 (12.5%)	69 (13.0%)	41 (7.7%)	107 (20.2%)	530
Refractometry	309 (58.9%)	39 (7.4%)	45 (8.6%)	24 (4.6%)	108 (20.6%)	525
A-Scans	296 (56.2%)	43 (8.2%)	40 (7.6%)	26 (4.9%)	122 (23.2%)	527
Electrophysiology	450 (88.2%)	20 (3.9%)	19 (3.7%)	6 (1.2%)	15 (2.9%)	510
Surgical Assisting	348 (67.2%)	50 (9.7%)	45 (8.7%)	20 (3.9%)	55 (10.6%)	518
Supervisory	161 (30.4%)	52 (9.8%)	75 (14.2%)	47 (8.9%)	195 (36.8%)	530
Inventory	92 (17.3%)	39 (7.3%)	81 (15.3%)	75 (14.1%)	244 (46.0%)	531
Budgeting	244 (47.0%)	62 (12.0%)	63 (12.1%)	34 (6.6%)	116 (22.4%)	519
Equipment Maint./Repair	58 (10.8%)	49 (9.2%)	110 (20.6%)	85 (15.9%)	233 (43.6%)	535

Note: The percentages in the table to the right are taken from the participant total for each skill. The participant total includes those that answered they never perform the given skill and those that neglected to complete this section.

Table 7: When performing these imaging skills, do you utilize film, digital methods, or both?

Skill	Film	Digital	Both
Fundus Photography Mydriatic	140 (23.8%)	144 (24.5%)	287 (48.8%)
Fundus Photography Non-Myd	49 (9.9%)	91 (18.3%)	61 (12.3%)
Monochromatic Fundus	78 (16.1%)	135 (27.8%)	100 (20.6%)
Fluorescein Angiography	88 (14.9%)	219 (37.2%)	206 (35.0%)
Slit-Lamp Biomicroscopy	169 (31.2%)	79 (14.6%)	35 (6.5%)
External Photos	149 (27.0%)	121 (21.9%)	110 (19.9%)

Note: The three skills graphs presented here reflect the number of participants who answered "Often" or "Routinely" when asked how often they performed the given skills.

Commonly Performed Imaging Skills

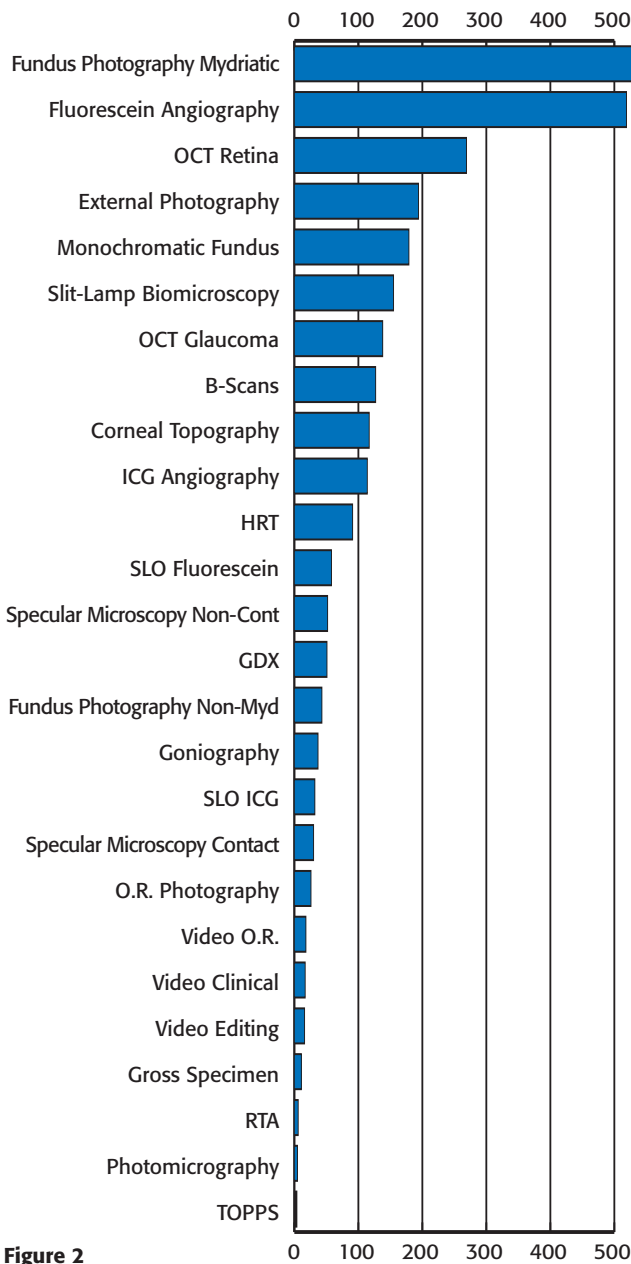


Figure 2

Commonly Performed Processing Skills

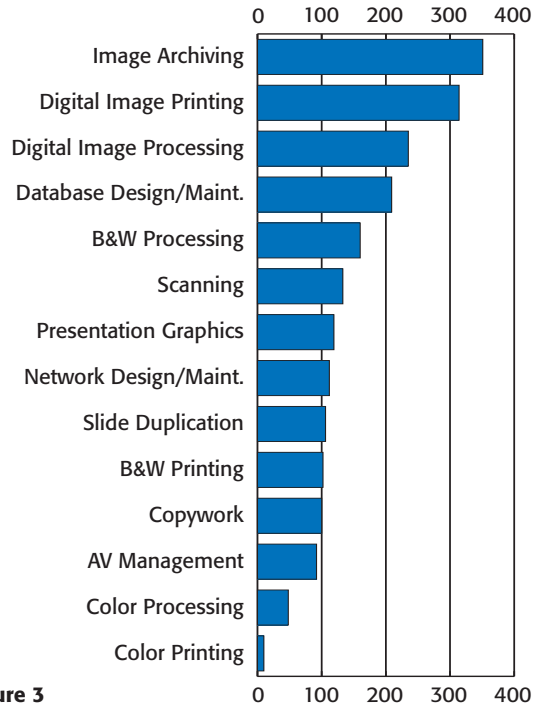


Figure 3

Other Commonly Performed Skills

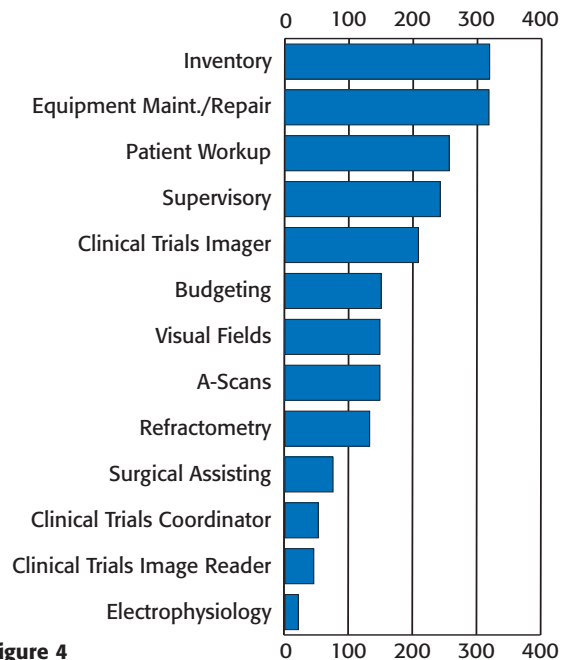


Figure 4